A Selected List of Readable Books for Young People
OUR NEIGHBOR REPUBLICS

A Selected List of READABLE BOOKS for YOUNG PEOPLE

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FOREWORD

The Library Service Division of the U. S. Office of Education has prepared a series of bibliographies designed for use in furthering a better understanding of our neighbor republics. The first bibliography appeared in multigraphed form in February 1942 under the title Our Neighbor Republics; a selected list of readable books for young people. The present publication, which is a revision of the first one, includes approximately 40 additional books and an index by author, title, and subject. The titles of the six other lists in the series are Industries, Products, and Transportation in Our Neighbor Republics and Arts, Crafts, and Customs of Our Neighbor Republics.

Grateful acknowledgment is made to the publishers who have cooperated in making review copies available and who have permitted the U. S. Office of Education to retain the books, pamphlets, and magazines in the Library for reference purposes.

Bess Goodykoontz,
Assistant U. S. Commissioner of Education.
INTRODUCTION

The following representative books were selected to aid teachers, librarians, and parents in furthering a better understanding of the Americas among children in the United States. The books are designed to serve children from the picture book age through senior high school. Three basic principles have guided the selection: first, the appeal to the diverse interests of readers; second, the portrayal of the various phases of life in our neighbor republics; and third, the value of the material to teachers in the presentation of our neighbor republics in the school curriculum. With these factors as a foundation, the description of each book attempts to indicate clearly the scope of the subject covered, the special features, such as unusual illustrations and maps, and the range of appeal to children.

The reading level of each book is indicated, and the notes suggest those which are appropriate for reading aloud to young children. Many of the books can be used with all ages.

This list should suggest basic titles about our neighbor republics for schools which desire such information. However, it must be remembered that the material in the bibliography is only a sampling and not a comprehensive selection.
1. BACKGROUNDS

LOADING STEEL PIPING AT CAJAMARA TO BE CARRIED BY AIR TO CHACHAPOYAS,
150 KILOMETERS OVER THE MOUNTAINS

A. General

1. Baker, Nina B. **He Wouldn't Be King;** the story of Simón Bolívar; ill. by Camilo Egas. Vanguard, 1941. 305 p. $2.50.

The life story of South America's greatest hero shows colonial life and gaiety as well as the grim hardships of war. The other figures closely connected with Bolívar's fight for freedom mingle in the story to form a picture of the entire independence movement.

Young people will find a story of dauntless courage and sacrifice in the life of the "Liberator" whose dying words were—"Colombian." My last wishes are for the happiness of my country. If my death will contribute to reconcile the parties and to consolidate the Union, I shall go down to the tomb in peace."

Brief index and bibliography.

2. Diaz del Castillo, Bernal. **Cortez and the Conquest of Mexico by the Spaniards in 1521;** being the eye-witness narrative of Bernal Díaz del Castillo, soldier of fortune and conquistador with Cortez in Mexico,

In 1519 Cortez and a band of less than 700 adventurous followers landed on the coast of Mexico. From this landing place, called Villa Rica de la Vera Cruz, they pushed over the high mountains toward the valley of Mexico. The way was strongly contested by hostile Indians, but the horses and guns of the Spaniards seemed superhuman to the natives who were soon terrified into submission. Among the band of conquerors was Bernal Diaz del Castillo, a soldier who kept an account of the expedition and the final great battle in the fortified canal city of Tenochtitlan, now called Mexico City. *Cortes and the Conquest of Mexico* is an abridged translation of Bernal Diaz's story. It is a vivid and exciting description of the conquest by one who actually took part. The picture of Indian life as seen by the first Europeans is interesting and the basis for many later descriptions of the Aztecs. The illustrations are taken from Indian drawings which illustrated another early account of New Spain.

Grades 8–12


The authors link the history of South America with that of Europe and North America in their description of the continent from the time of discovery to the present. They also explain the economic and political development. The emphasis is on the Good Neighbor policy; and an attempt is made to answer questions that arise in connection with the present situation:

They have never really wanted us to be a big brother to them—but they do want us to be a good neighbor—and understand them.

And at last, that is just what is happening.

A new feeling of friendship between both the Americas—North and South—began to develop when the Pan American Union was formed. Its very name means a Union of all the Americas . . . and for many years, men from all the different countries had been trying to form it.

Simón Bolívar, the great Liberator, was the first one: as long ago as 1826, he tried to bring the American countries together. But that was too soon. They still had to “settle down.”

Many marginal illustrations decorate the pages. An appendix gives brief information on each country. The end papers are maps of modern and colonial South America.

Grades 5–7


A discussion of 12 Central and South American countries of today. The clear photographic illustrations and open page give the book an inviting appearance—nor will the child be disappointed in the text, as there are many graphic episodes, such as when a Spanish conqueror took a piece of paper, crushed it in his hand, and placed it on the table before the king to describe the topography of South America.

Each country is considered separately. Essential facts about the geography, climate, and people are brought out; but through the book there is enough of human interest to give the sketches individuality.

Grades 5–9

Students interested in the development of races and the influence of environment on the peoples of nations will find these elements of Latin American civilization discussed clearly in this brief book. Among the questions considered are: The origin of man on the American hemisphere; the importance of Indian civilizations in South America; the fusion of races represented in the Conquistadores; the influence of the Negro in Latin America; the geographical conditions responsible for determining differences among the people; and the growing importance of Latin America in the economic life of the world.

Grades 10-12


A flight around South America in a clipper ship was the adventurous experience of the author. Her assignment was to take a look at the investments that had been made in sky routes by the United States companies; to find out just where the United States stands in the terrific aerial competition ahead; and to learn what better relations and business opportunities and travel facilities might result from the new transport system. Some of the difficulties described are those of preparing a landing field in countries that had never been even accurately mapped, and where disease, wild beasts, and reptiles menace. The author injects lively personal anecdotes about the people and region into her graphic reporting on the technique of clipper flying in the conquest of air over South America.

Grades 7-12


In this series of booklets are several on the American Republics. All are non-technical but authoritative presentations of the current problems of inter-American cooperation. They are a valuable contribution to the understanding of Latin America and to the formation of sound concepts about the American Republics. Titles related to the subject are:

Delis Goetz and Varian Fry. The Good Neighbors—the story of the two Americas. 1940. 96 p.
Joan Raushenbush. Look at Latin America. 1940. 64 p.

Grades 8-12

8. Herring, Hubert C. Good Neighbors: Argentina, Brazil, Chile, and 17 other countries. Yale Univ. Press, 1941. 381 p. $3.

"Americans North want to know exactly who are these good neighbors...what they eat, think, and propose to do...what sort of men rule over them...whether they plan to play with us or with the foe...that is what this book is about"—so the author describes the content of his book.

The major portion of the volume is concerned with Argentina, Brazil, and Chile. Each nation is discussed from various angles: The racial backgrounds, social classes, politics, natural resources, and the historic factors which have special bearing on today’s problems.
The remaining third of the book considers 17 other countries in the same manner but in much less detail. The concluding chapter on the United States' relations with Latin America is realistic and straightforward.

*Good Neighbors* has a lively readable style and will be enjoyed by mature students.

Grades 10-12


An account of Columbus as told by three people: The first part is related by a monk at the Monastery of La Robida in Spain, and begins with the day that Columbus and his son Diego sought shelter there for the night. His interest in maps brought him the encouragement and aid of the Prior who helped him to win the favor of the Queen.

The second and third parts of the story are told by a sailor who was on the *Santa Maria* with Columbus. The long journey, the discovery of land, the wreck of the *Santa Maria*, and the tragic settlement at La Navidad are vividly described.

The scene of the concluding chapters is again the Monastery at La Robida after the death of Columbus. Pizarro and Cortez meet at supper. During the evening an Indian who was brought to Spain by Columbus tells of the return voyage, and then sums up the rest of the story of Columbus.

Doublespread illustrations in color as well as those in black and white add value to the book.

Grades 7-10


10. Las Casas, Bartholomew. *The Log of Christopher Columbus' First Voyage to America* in the year 1492 as copied out in brief by Bartholomew Las Casas, one of his companions; with illustrations by J. O'H. Cosgrave, II. W. R. Scott, 1938. 80 unnum. p. $2.

The log is another book prepared in the same manner as *Cortez and the Conquest of Mexico*.

The record of Columbus' first voyage was kept by one of his followers and this day-by-day diary has been abridged into a brief account of dramatic effectiveness.

Extracts from Columbus' letters to Spain also add interest. The book opens with one which promises the Spanish sovereigns: "I thought it well to write an account of all the voyage most punctually, noting the happenings from day to day." The volume suitably ends with a second extract from Columbus which is an account of the first 2 days in America.

The short book is attractively printed on buff paper with brown illustrations, reproductions of old maps, wood blocks, and pages from old books.

Grades 7-12


Henri Christophe is the subject of this dramatic biography of a Negro slave who became king of a black nation. It is also the story of the bloody revolt of the Negro slaves of Haiti against their French masters. The former slaves had to continue their struggle to remain free from white domination. The events of
this violent era are closely connected with the Negro leaders—Toussaint L’Ouverture, Dessalines, and Henri Christophe. The mixture of brutality and patriotism which motivated these men resulted in a Negro government as oppressive as the white regime had been. Henri Christophe’s determination to give the chaotic island order, industry, and prosperity made him a ruthless king. His dramatic life and despotic reign ended in tragedy. The fast-moving book is a readable account of America’s only Negro nation.

Grades 6-12

12. Peck, Anne M. The Pageant of South American History; il. with photogravures and maps. Longmans, 1941. 405 p. $3. A compact history of South America organized under the following topics: Native peoples; The conquest of South America; Colonial empires; Background for independence; and South America today.

The concluding chapters tell about culture and arts in South America and Pan America: the great dream. Written in a popular style, anecdotes are frequently used to make events more vivid. There are many good photographs showing scenery and resources of the continent; however, they are not always placed with the information they illustrate, and unrelated subjects are often grouped on a single page. A classified bibliography and an adequate index are included.

Grades 8-12

13. Peck, Anne M. Roundabout South America; il. by the author. Harper, 1940. 359 p. $3. Personal reactions of the author to South America make up a readable book of armchair travel. The itinerary included Panama, Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia, Chile, Argentina, Uruguay, and Brazil. The book is a pleasant description of what she saw and enjoyed. Miss Peck was not a superficial tourist. She informed herself about the customs of the countries, the arts, the educational systems, the history, the industries, the religion, but she does not attempt to present a professional discussion of social and economic conditions, because this would necessarily involve the recognition of existing problems. The book suggests interesting subjects, places, and individuals that should stimulate further reading.

Grades 9-12

14. Potter, Edna. Christopher Columbus; the story of a great adventure; told and illustrated by Edna Potter; with a foreword by May Lamberton Becker. Oxford, 1932. 128 p. $2. A biography which tells of the early life of Columbus as well as of the voyages of discovery. His boyhood in Italy, his continued interest in maps and in the sea, and his efforts to interest some ruler of Europe in the voyage to the Indies all build the background for the work for which he is remembered. The four voyages are recounted, and the end papers have a map with the route followed in each. Large type and illustrations in color help to make it a readable biography.

Available to schools in Cadmus Books. E. M. Hale, 81 cents.

Grades 5-8

15. Quinn, Vernon. Picture Map Geography of South America; with il. by Paul S. Johst. Stokes, 1941. 112 p. $1.50. A brief introductory statement on South America as a whole is followed by a chapter about each of the 10 republics and the 3 colonies in Guiana. The history, physical geography, animals and vegetation, products, exports, and important
cities are considered. The details of the black and white picture maps of each country are small but clear enough for the reader to get a visual impression of the principal geographic facts. The book indicates the variety in climate and topography, and the wealth of resources and products of the continent.

Grades 4-7


The strange adventures that befell Vasco Núñez de Balboa when he said farewell to the city of Cadiz and sailed for the New World make a tale of adversity which ended only with death brought about by the treachery of his own men.

As he saw greed and jealousy and bitterness, the fiery-headed Spaniard came to know the meaning of Columbus’ words: “I swear that numbers of men have gone to the Indies who did not deserve water from God or man.” For those who think of Balboa only in relation to the crossing of the Isthmus, the dramatic life on the plantation at Salvatierra and the colony at Darien add a new interest as does the character of Pizarro who was destined to become the conqueror of Peru.

Grades 7-12


The men who have played an important part in building Latin America include educators, literary figures, and scientists as well as conquerors, patriots, and dictators. One hears most about this last group because they are the spectacular persons. Daring, courage, and political skill are apparent in the careers of such men as Cortez, Bolivar, and Diaz. The authors have treated these figures adequately and clearly, but a special contribution is in their accounts of the Inca Atahualpa; Moreno, the Argentine lawyer and founder of the republic; Dom Pedro II, Emperor of Brazil; Sarmiento, the educator; Rubén Darío, Latin America’s greatest poet; and other important persons not so familiar to people in the United States.

Twenty-two builders are described. The biographies are arranged in four chronological divisions called Foundations, Revolution, Dictatorship, and Toward a Better Future! While these builders are only a few of the many persons who contributed to their countries’ development, they are representative of historical phases, and suggest the different parts played by individuals.

The characters of those chosen are varied, the accounts interesting and often dramatic, so that the book is valuable for pleasure reading as well as for reference.

Grades 8-12


For five of the “riches of South America” Mr. Von Hagen has written an incident which describes a child in a situation related to the product.

In Colombia, Emérito is sent for the mechanic when the coffee peeling machine breaks down. In Ecuador, Zelinda sells her first Panama hat and becomes a real weaver. Goyo cuts down balsa trees in the forests of Peru. Elvia, who lives in a village in Venezuela, works with the big trays of cacao beans, sorting the black ones from the rich brown. In the mountains of Bolivia, Domingo and Pepe are very happy because the shaft which was sunk shows that tin ore is on their claim.
Preceding each story is a brief account of the product which is the central theme; and in the story itself something of the home life and customs is given. The end papers are a picture map of the continent, and the many illustrations in color, and black and white show the workers in their environment.

Grades 4-7


Simón Bolívar, a descendant of the conquistadors, grew up in the huge house of his wealthy parents. Trips to the cattle ranches of his family were exciting adventures to the youth whose colorful boyhood in Venezuela was followed by more exciting experiences in Spain.

His youthful marriage to a Spanish girl ended abruptly in the bride's death. After this tragedy, Bolívar's interests turned more and more toward his country's condition. His pride had always fired at the slights against Colonials not only in Spain, but in the Colonies themselves. Social precedence and the most distinguished positions had always been given to Spaniards who felt themselves superior to any native-born.

Following the dream of Miranda who had long envisioned freedom from Spain, Bolívar's youthful enthusiasm rallied the cause and kept it alive until all Spanish South America was liberated. His campaigns were daring; defeats of crushing force were balanced by amazing strategy.

The life of Bolívar is the story of a courageous leader's fight for a great ideal.

Brief bibliography.

Grades 8-12

20. Williams, Mary W. The People and Politics of Latin America; a history. Ginn, 1938. 889 p. $4.60.

The history of the Latin American nations is presented in simple, factual style. Ample material on the aborigines, the conquest, colonial administration, the church, education, and the arts furnishes varied general information. After a discussion of the Independence Movement, each country is considered separately except those of Central America which are combined in one section. The leading historical figures are briefly and objectively treated. The book concludes with a chapter on modern cultural achievements and a discussion of international relations.

Although written as a history text for college use, the wealth of information presented makes the book a valuable reference for high-school students. Good photographs and 21 maps as well as an index add to its usefulness. Extensive bibliography.

Grades 10-12


Agricultural resources in the rich tropical lands of Central America are the chief interest of the author who has seen the variety of products not yet fully utilised. Since the problems of agricultural development are economic as well as scientific, a number of elements enter into the discussion. The author says:

Bounteous earth raises bounteous harvests. But these harvests must be reaped and sold. Credit resources are weak. The present finesa proprietor
has inherited enormous responsibilities for "carrying" multitudes of habituated laborers.

Thus, in real-life fact, cultural relations with Latin America and particularly with Middle America are preponderantly economic. There are well illustrated and interesting accounts of the history, growing, harvesting, and marketing of such crops as bananas, coffee, coconuts, chocalate, rubber, and sugar. Enough of the history, politics, and commerce is given to show the importance of crops in countries which remain agrarian frontiers.

The main contribution of the book lies in its valuable information about many products and their possible improvement and greater distribution.

Grades 10-12


The book is arranged by countries. In each case general background material on geography and history precedes the discussion of the country in modern times. Industries and raw materials are indicated. Large cities are described at length.

The book is profusely illustrated with photographs, many of which are full page. They show people, industries, cities, homes, animals, and characteristic scenery of mountain, pampa, and jungle.

Grades 5-9

23. Ybarra, Thomas R. Young Man of Caracas; foreword by Elmer Davis; il. Washburn, 1941. 324 p. $3.

Reminiscences of life in Caracas in the last part of the 19th and beginning of the 20th century are amusing and intimate. Ruthless generals and politicians as well as ladies and gentlemen of high society cross the path of the Ybarra family. The author's parents were the vivacious daughter of the United States Minister and a handsome young general in the Venezuelan army. The romantic couple lived at times in conservative Boston and again in Caracas. This account has mainly to do with the sojourn in Caracas while Tom was growing up. Life there was exactly what we might imagine it to have been—huge patio-ed mansions were managed in traditional Spanish style by home-loving señoritas; the gentlemen were true to their reputation for volcanic temperament; and the young blades enjoyed a particularly carefree life.

With a variety of humorous anecdotes from his youth, Ybarra gives a picture of a charming household which combined Latin tradition with New England vigor. The background of political intrigue, misgovernment, and oppression of the lower classes is suggested; but as such serious concerns were only dimly sensed by the privileged youth these factors are not stressed. This is the purely personal and entertaining account of a young man growing up in Caracas at the turn of the century.

Grades 10-12


The first man to sail around the world was Ferdinand Magellan, who left the Spanish port of San Luear on September 20, 1519. He was a Portuguese sailing under the Spanish flag, and reached the Spice Islands by circumnavigating the world.
The expedition set sail in 5 ships manned by 265 sailors and adventurers. The account of the preparations for the voyage relates how the old ships were reconditioned and outfitted. The supplies were chosen with forethought and each item listed; inventories still exist to prove how meticulous were the plans. Foodstuffs in large quantities show that Magellan knew the voyage would be more extensive than his sailors dreamed.

The introductory chapters furnish background for an understanding of all the voyages of exploration. The exploits of the Portuguese navigators in their travels down the coast of Africa, around the Cape of Good Hope, and finally across the Indian Ocean and the Bay of Bengal to Malaya, show why the excitement over the Indies spread as small. Portugal increased in wealth. For almost 10 years Magellan took part in these expeditions. He was one of those on the first voyage to Malacca.

Unappreciated in Portugal, the restless veteran offered his services to Spain. After many plots and intrigues he sailed a Spanish fleet on one of the world's most amazing voyages.

The author presents Magellan in the vigorous manner which suits the story of mutiny, starvation, shipwreck, and disaster—the lot of the great navigator.

B. Individual Countries.


A North American boy living in Guatemala writes letters to a friend in the United States. They describe the life in Guatemala today—the houses, markets, schools, and pottery. Dick is invited to a birthday party, he learns that the 6th of January, the Three Kings' Day, is the time when children receive their Christmas toys, and he visits coffee and banana plantations. Illustrations in color supplement the text and show the costumes, pottery making, weaving, and baking of tortillas. A glossary with pronunciation of the words is a useful part of the book.

Grades 4-6

26. Hanson, Earl P. Chile; Land of Progress. Reynal, 1941. 201 p. $1.75.

Contemporary Chile is described as progressive in social reform, education, and democratic principles. The author advances the theory that this achievement is the result of geographical, racial, and historical factors which are fundamental contributions to Chile's progress. As an engineer from 1922 to 1925, Mr. Hanson saw the beginning of the labor movement. Today he views the Chile which is emerging from the social transformation whose early manifestations he had observed. This concise, well-written account of a modern South American nation is an antidote to the picturesque or romantic concepts of Latin countries. Excellent photographs illustrate the text.

Grades 10-12

27. Kelsey, Vera. Seven Keys to Brazil. Funk, 1940. 314 p. $3.

Seven geographical areas are the keys to the understanding of Brazil. Vera Kelsey conceives Brazil as a mosaic of histories, time, religion, economics, cultures,
and bloods. She believes that no single type can be called Brazilian nor can any area be considered representative. The Portuguese, the Indian, and the Negro racial strains combined with the influence of the church are considered basic elements in Brazilian life. After presenting this background, the author describes seven districts from the Amazon jungles to the pampas of the temperate south. Detailed accounts of the modern cities, the industries, the products, and the customs of each area furnish a variety of information. The history and something of the artistic attainments of the diverse areas are also brought into the discussion. This authoritative book is a readable reference. Good photographs. Index. Bibliography.

Grades 10–12


The exciting story of explorers, conquerors, treasure seekers, and pirates comprises the early history of the Isthmus of Panama. This adventurous era ended with Morgan’s sack of Panama City. The impoverished country interested neither the declining Spain nor the rest of Europe. Following a brief account of this quiescent period, the author describes the California gold rush days and the building of a trans-Isthmian railroad. New prosperity revived interest in a water-way and the first half of the book concludes with a description of the French canal fiasco.
The setting up of the Canal Zone under the jurisdiction of the United States begins the last period of the history of the isthmus. The improvement of sanitation, housing, and medical facilities, as well as details of canal construction are described. The concluding chapters tell about the modern city of Panama and life in the Canal Zone.

Grades 7-12


"Many Mexico" does not pretend to be a history, but the book "is a work of exposition and digestion." The author limited himself to a discussion of such institutions, habits of life and thought, and of the lives of such men as, in his opinion, have left the deepest impression on the country. In carrying out his plan, the author omits accounts of military feats and military heroes. The chapter on Cortés is an excellent example of his method. Maximilian and Carlotta are removed from their glamorous positions and recede into their brief period with proper proportion to the historic panorama. The era of Díaz is objectively presented, and its aftermath, the revolution of 1910, is clearly described. Today's problems are explained, and, in the author's opinion, their solution is still an aspiration. Touches of humor are added to a readable style.

Grades 10-12

30. Tschiffely, Aimé F. This Way Southward; a journey through Patagonia and Tierra del Fuego. Norton, 1940. 354 p. $3.50.

The author recounts the tale of his adventurous 7,000-mile journey via a Ford V-8 into a little known and sparsely settled section of Argentina. The book contains episodes from "forgotten and unknown history" and tells of visits to Indians in remote places. There is also much to interest the lover of horses in this volume. Tschiffely made his side trips into the mountains on horseback. It may be remembered that the same author wrote of his eventful journeys with two horses in Tschiffely's Ride from Buenos Aires, through Bolivia, Peru, Ecuador, Colombia, Panama, and Mexico to Washington, D. C.

Grades 10-12


Believing that mutual respect and understanding between nations are the result of knowledge of each other, former Ambassador Weddell has written a friendly guide to Argentina. The account begins with how to get to Argentina, continues by telling what may be seen and done in Buenos Aires. Museums, the theater, hotels, restaurants, and shops are all discussed together with details of life in the cosmopolitan city. Trips to other areas are described informally as Mendoza, in the fertile vineyard district; Rosario, the big commercial city on the Paraná; and colonial Córdoba, the seat of Argentina's oldest university. Hunting and fishing expeditions also have a place in the account of contemporary life. A chapter on birds, trees, and flowers adds to the general information. By concluding with a brief survey of Argentine history, the books connect Argentina today with its past.

Modern Argentina is presented in guide book style enlivened by informal, anecdotal incidents. Useful folder map is included.

Grades 8-12
LLAMAS ARE THE PERUVIAN INDIAN'S BEST FRIENDS
II. NATURE


The story is divided into three parts. The first section, which covers half of the book, is a beautifully told account of the first year of a dolphin's life. The creatures of the sea and land whom he meets are accurately and vividly described. Sharks, snake-birds, shad, otters, alligators, whales, and once the dread octopus, were all part of his experience. Attacked by sharks, and badly wounded, the dolphin made his way back to Nassau.

The second part of the story tells of the life of a Negro child who loved the sea. When he was 9, he found the dolphin where it rested under the pier, gaining strength from the encounter with the sharks.

The third part is the friendship of the boy and the dolphin. The two, swimming together, have many adventures. At last there is the dramatic incident, where the boy, diving for sponges, is caught by an octopus. When there seems to be no hope, he is saved by the dolphin. The legend of such a friendship runs through the tales of this part of the world. Scientists are agreed that while they never had known it to happen, it lies within the realm of possibility. The book is profusely illustrated by the author. The pictures are scientifically correct and make the sea life of the Caribbean area more real to the reader.

Grades 5–6


The opening chapters tell of the evolution of the penguin and of the formation of the Galápagos Islands where Paddlewings was hatched. As he grew older, he met many strange creatures: a sea iguana, flying fish, frigate bird, giant tortoise, and once, a savage rooster fish with eyes on the top of its head. One day Paddlewings was caught in a swirling waterspout and separated from his family. He was taken aboard the ship of a scientific expedition, escaped at Panama, was captured by some children, and taken to market where the scientists were amazed to find a penguin in that region.

The information is accurate. Many amusing illustrations relate scientific facts to things within the realm of a child's experience—the way in which Paddlewings steers is shown by two pictures, one of the penguin, the other of a man in a boat using the oars as the bird uses his wings. There are also many illustrations of Paddlewings and of the strange fish and animals he met. The author's knowledge is based upon his own work with a scientific expedition.

Grades 4–6


The author, who is a zoologist, begins his volume with a description of the most extensive tract of virgin forest in the world. He then tells of the work and contribution to scientific exploration in South America of such famous naturalists as Alexander von Humboldt, Charles Waterton and Charles Darwin. This section is followed by descriptions and photographs of animals, including among others: The vampire bats, armadillos, sloths, anteaters, pumas, monkeys, birds, turtles, serpents, and butterflies. The author refers to the findings of scientists and indicates the economic importance of these jungle creatures. The book
attracts those who find animals interesting and who want to know something about how naturalists proceed to obtain data about the habitat, the geographical distribution, and the general habits of animals.


The story is based on a scientific expedition to Cuba and British Guiana. A wealthy man converts a yacht into a floating museum and laboratory, equipped to take care of the specimens which are discovered. Three high-school boys are chosen to go with the trained scientists.

Mr. Ditmars says in his introduction:

This is not a story of veteran explorers accepting everything in a matter of fact way. The tale relates to very human people going into jungles, which to them are thrilling and new. Their planning is sensible, and the disciplinary measures of Doctor Price practical throughout, but in spite of all this the mishaps and near hazards that occur—once of which might have ended in tragedy—indicate that the fascination of observing wild life in the tropics is likely to be interrupted by plenty of exciting adventures.

The adventures include the capture of strange animals, tree toads, rare butterflies and boas, and being lost in the jungle.

At the end of the book are 16 pages of photographic plates which describe animals and scenes found in the story. Page references are given to indicate the parts of the story which the illustrations explain.


Even grown-up sea horses are only 3 to 4 inches long, and the babies are not much bigger than commas. The introduction to the book says:

The story is fiction, but all information is scientifically correct. The illustrations are the result of observations made by Mrs. Bostelmann from a diving helmet, and many of them are based on paintings actually made on the ocean floor off Bermuda. The strange facts, the incredible creatures, and the fairyland of color are nature's own.

The doublespread pictures running across each page give the feeling of the sea and show the many kinds of plant and animal life which the sea horse encounters in the Caribbean.


Thousands of miles in the snowy highlands, along the desert coasts and in the forests of Ecuador, Peru, and Chile were covered by train, airplane, and automobile, on horseback and on foot by the plant hunters on their botanical expedition. The main interest of the scientists was to find new, strong, or disease-resistant species of nicotiana which might also aid in the study of heredity and cross-breeding. At the same time the collectors searched for wild potatoes, corn, cotton, and tomatoes, as well as new ornamental plants. They traveled unpretentiously and often stopped in country villages and homes. The dangers of travel in remote places, the hardships of life in the arid regions and high Andes, the strange food,
s-helters, and the way of life of the people through whose country they collected plants all became a part of the expedition records.

Over a hundred excellent photographs show as much variety of material as the text. The book has wide appeal: some anecdotes are amusing; others, such as the trip to Robinson Crusoe’s island, are exciting; the botanical information is clear and scientific; and the whole book has an entertaining style which holds attention.

Grades 10-12


The visit of two children to a large banana farm in Guatemala arouses their interest in the fruit. Their uncle tells them the history of the banana from its cultivation in Asia, to the spread of the fruit to Africa, discovered centuries later, and in turn brought the roots across the ocean to the New World.

The work involved in preparing the jungle for cultivation of bananas is described. The children visit the fields where young plants are just appearing and see the trees at various stages of growth until the fruit is cut and loaded on the ships. The colored illustrations amplify the text. For example, the development of the fruit from the blossom to the bunch of green bananas is shown in a series of five pictures. The book will also be helpful in indicating how products of Latin America are used in the United States.

Grades 4-5


Bird study is the passion which Hudson shares with his readers in this volume of appreciation of nature. He hoped to find in Patagonia some of the birds that had become familiar to him in his brief visits to his boyhood home in La Plata. In the desolate wilderness he also expected to see some new species—“some bird as beautiful, let us say, as the wryneck or wheatear, and as old on the earth, but which had never been named and never even seen by any appreciative human eye.” The traveler discovered unsuspected satisfactions in the solitude of the wilderness which he explored. The descriptive qualities make it possible for the reader to enjoy vicariously the pleasures of the author in each new bird acquaintance and other experiences, such as the effect of whiteness as seen in a tumultuous milky sea and the strange delight in the vaster whiteness of a first snowfall.


Grades 10-12


A story of the little red squirrel from South America which two North American children brought home from the pet shop. The book has value for Latin American backgrounds because from many of the countries, presents came for Lupe. Ears of corn, green glass from Mexico, the heavy shell with the Brazil nuts in it, tropical fruits, typical Indian pottery, straw dolls, tagua nuts, cocoa beans, and gourds are all shown in the beautiful full-page illustrations.
4. But Lupe remained unhappy until a beautiful big gourd arrived. Lupe climbed inside, only to rush out to fetch straw for a bed and nuts for provisions. “Why didn’t we think of giving her a house?” asked John. “We live in a house.”

“And a bed?” asked Joan. “I wouldn’t like to sleep on the floor.”

So Lupe came at last to have a home of her own. The theme is one which will have universal appeal to children.

For reading aloud to young children.

Grades 4-5


In the forests of Yucatan, lived Chan Yuc, a little brocket deer who was no bigger than a rabbit. Even when full grown, she would be only 20 inches high. One day her mother was killed, and Chan Yuc was taken to the camp where some archeologists lived. As Chan Yue grew older everyone gave her wonderful things to eat: roses, hibiscus, deer olives, and even the cook’s favorite yellow flowers. Then came the time for Chan Yue to travel far away to the Zoo in Washington. To keep her company, another little deer was found; so Baby Chan Yuc and Big Chan Yuc made the long trip together. The story is a delightful account of how wild animals are kept alive and taken to a zoo.

The illustrations in color by Jean Charlot have both vigor and charm.

For reading aloud to young children.

Grades 4 to 5

43. Sanderson, Ivan T. Caribbean Treasure; with 32 il. by the author. Viking, 1939. 292 p. $3.

Though the volume is concerned with the lighter and more human side of scientific travel, yet the viewpoint is that of a scientist who is a lover of animals. The book is written in the form of a tropical travel diary and tells with rare humor of the adventures encountered in Jamaica, Trinidad, Haiti, and Dutch Guiana in a search for small mammals. The study of animals in their natural surroundings is the first interest of the author. The accounts of the many creatures of the Caribbean area—bats, lizards, spiders and frogs, as well as other animals—include descriptions of the types of terrain which they inhabit. The author’s Living Treasure is similar in character and equally interesting.

Grades 8-12

44. Verrill, Alpheus H. Foods America Gave the World; the strange, fascinating and often romantic histories of many native American food plants, their origin and other interesting and curious facts concerning them; appendices in collaboration with Otis W. Barrett; il. by the author. Page, 1937. 289 p. $3.

Many food plants commonly used today originated in the Americas. Some of these were probably first cultivated over 3,000 years ago in Peru, and others were developed independently by Indian civilizations far removed from each other. The book begins with an account of the grass we call corn and what is known of the origin of corn in Peru. It tells of how many countless centuries it must have required to spread the kernels throughout the Western Hemisphere, as corn will only grow when planted and cultivated. Another section describes the origin of the common potato and the sweet potato and how, together with other root vegetables, they were cultivated by the Incas and pre-Incas for centuries before the arrival of Europeans into the New World. The stories of chocolate, mate or
Paraguay tea, and vanilla orchids and how the pods are treated to make the flavoring are a few other examples of the unusual information presented in this informal study of foods. The illustrations show both the vegetables and the Indians' artistic use of vegetable shapes in making pottery bowls.

**Grades 6–12**

45. Von Hagen, Victor W. and Hawkins, Quail. **Quetzal Quest;** the story of the capture of the quetzal, the sacred bird of the Aztecs and the Mayas; il. by Antonio Sotomayor. Harcourt, 1939. 198 p. $2.

Mr. and Mrs. Von Hagen, American naturalists, succeeded in accomplishing what was believed impossible. From the forests of Honduras, they brought back five quetzals, the sacred bird of the Aztecs and Mayas. For a time they had difficulty in persuading the Indians to help them because the Indians feared the Lord of the Jungle, Sisimiki. The promise of pay and of sharp knives overcame their fear, and they decided to join the expedition. Fidelio is an Indian boy whose exposure to modern civilization makes a fascinating study of contrasts. It is he who discovers the first quetzal nest, saves Don Victor from the terrible "X" snake, and rescues the baby quetzal from the great black ants. The dread Sisimiki proves to be something the Indians had always known. Fidelio's reward comes when he is chosen to go with the quetzals on the ship.

**Grades 5–8**


Mrs. Waldeck tells of some of the preparations made by herself and husband before going into British Guiana as members of an expedition organized to collect Indian handicraft. Food for nine months, medical supplies, and clothing were to be planned; and then the careful packing. When they reached South America, the real excitement began: a trip up the swift river, night in the jungle, being deserted by the boatmen on an island, and making the permanent camp. There are useful chapters on jungle vines, trees, and medicines used by the Indians. A picture dictionary helps to explain the text. Illustrations in color and in black and white show the jungle. Of especial interest will be that of the woodskin, the Arawak Indian boat. The end papers are picture maps of plant and animal life in the region.

**Grades 4–7**


In the Brazilian jungle far up in the valley of the Amason, Ku-Ma, a white panther, was born—white as the snow he would never see, and larger than the other cubs who were yellow, spotted with black.

One night during a terrible storm he was left alone. So it was that Ku-Ma, living constantly in danger, learned the ways of the jungle. He did not even know that he could climb trees until he leapt at the iguana; but climbing saved him later from the wild dogs who could have torn him to pieces. Alligators whose jaws could crush his spine like a twig, water dogs who would pull him under the river until he must breathe and could not, peccaries whose tusks could slash like knives, and the dangerous coils of the great python—all these Ku-Ma learned until at last he knew the most cunning of all enemies—man, who hunted him because of his rare whiteness. Into the trap which the Indian set, Ku-Ma fell.
The cage was so stoutly built that it seemed he could never escape, and all night he struggled. Only as the sun rose over the edge of the world, and the barking of the Indian's dog grew closer did Ku-Ma, bleeding and weary, pull himself free from the trap.

III. ARCHEOLOGY, ARTS, CRAFTS, MUSIC, AND POETRY


The works of more than 80 poets are represented among the selections of the volume. The translator includes such well-known names as: Rubén Darío of Nicaragua, José Santos Chocano of Peru, Amado Nervo of Mexico, and Gabriela Mistral of Chile—together with other popular writers. This group of poems serves to introduce the themes and poetic style popular in Latin America, though, as in most translations of poetry, some of the vitality and freshness of the originals is lost.

The translator cites the following as testimony to the high esteem in which poetry is held in Latin America.

Among the Latin Americans, poetry is held in high esteem. When Amado Nervo died in Montevideo, Argentina and Uruguay each sent a battleship to convoy his body back to Mexico, and Cuba sent out a cruiser to join the escort into Vera Cruz. When Rubén Darío travelled through the Spanish-American countries his journey was like a royal progress. So was Gabriela Mistral’s. In Colombia, it is said, when a favorite author has written a new poem, the whole community turns out to hear it read, and the enthusiasm is like that attending one of our big ball games.

One of the objectives of the collection is to contribute toward a better understanding which will lead to mutual respect and good will.


Paco and Pepita wanted very much to go to the fair at Otavalo to see the wonderful things they had heard about. The children were to be permitted to go on Saturday if the work of dyeing and spinning the wool was completed.
Paco did some experimenting and used the ancient dye, the royal Inca rusty-red, instead of the bright red aniline dye. Paco's father was very angry. The wool must be dyed black. But something happened to prevent this, and Paco and his sister went to the fair.

The full-page illustrations, many of them double spreads, depict the life of the Ecuadorian Indians. The big hand-spinning wheels, the dye-pot, the interior of the house, and a market scene are all authentically portrayed.

Grades 4-5


Panchita lived high in the mountains of Guatemala with her family who were the best potters in the village; but Panchita cared only for play. Not until she saw the golden-haired doll in the shop window was there an incentive to work. Under Grandmother's watchful eye, she fashioned the doll tea set. Week after week she worked patting the clay into shape, until at last even the sugar bowl and tea pot had received Grandmother's approval. Again Panchita went to market, this time by bus. In a little basket she carried the tea set. To her joy, a little American girl gave her the beautiful doll in exchange for the pottery. The description of the market, the Cora Festival and planting of the corn, the food, clothing, and customs are a part of the story, which is warmly human and written with a quiet charm.

Grades 4-5


Nineteen songs representing the music of 16 Latin American countries are in the collection. The words have been translated into English although most of the songs are also given in the original language. A brief discussion of the music and the characteristic background introduces each selection. Photographic illustrations showing typical scenes, musical instruments of Peru, and Paraguayan lace as they are related to the music add value to the collection.

Grades 7-12

52. Lee, Melicent H. Marcos; a mountain boy of Mexico; pictures by Berta and Elmer Hader. Whitman, 1937. (Junior Press books.) 80 p. $2.

Marcos wanted to earn money to buy a pair of oxen to help his father in the fields. He started down the mountain from his village home. On the way to the city of Oaxaca he met many people: basket makers, potters, and charcoal burners. But not until he watched the weaver, was he sure that he had found the work he loved.

The costumes of the Indians and many of their customs are described both through the text and the illustrations.

Grades 5-8


The varied handicraft of the Guatemalan Indians reveals a highly artistic concept applied to simple, useful articles. The author introduces the colorful crafts with a brief description of the country and the people. Then follow chapters
about such handiwork as weaving, basketry, tinwork, gourd craft, pottery, musical instruments, and the architecture representative of the epochs of Guatemala's history. The book is oversized and has unusually clear photographic illustrations of the people, country, and crafts. There are also colored illustrations showing weavers and fabrics.

Grades 7-12


A collection of 28 songs from the nations in the Western Hemisphere. The songs are arranged alphabetically by country, and for each there is a brief note of explanation.

The format is the same as that of Canciones Típicas.

Grades 4-7


The author, a former curator of Peruvian archaeology, uses objects to tell the reliable story of early culture. The book is a study of the Inca remains which serve to reconstruct their civilization. Varied achievements of Inca culture are described including the swinging bridges made of woven vines, the massive stone walls put together without mortar, and such details of daily life as styles of hair dress and clothing which are depicted on pottery remains. The style is partly scientific, but the brief text is illuminated by the numerous drawings and photographs which make this reference book valuable to students of all ages.

Grades 6-12


The unveiling of the Temple of Warriors and the reconstructing of a court with a thousand columns are two thrilling experiences described in this nontechnical account of an archaeological expedition sponsored by the Carnegie Institution into Yucatan. The author has an opportunity to show how exciting archaeology is as a career for women. The reader's interest is further stimulated in this enchanting science by reviewing the discovery of America by Columbus. An archaeologist interprets a single obscure sentence in the diary of Columbus to show that he would have had riches had he only accepted an invitation to visit the Mayas. Here again art, science, and people are the key interests.

Grades 7-12


In Mexico there was a beautiful painted pig, yellow with pink roses on his back. He was a savings-bank; but Pita, the little Indian girl, never had a centavo to put in him. Her brother, Pedro, wanted more than anything else to have a painted pig, too, so they went to the market to buy one. Pancho, the toymaker, had none left; but he offered Pedro a beautiful straw horse. When Pedro insisted on the pig, he promised to make one. Week after week the children returned to the market, each time to be offered a different toy and a wonderful excuse for the toymaker's not having the pig. The full-page illustrations in color show the toys of the country.

For reading aloud to young children.

Grade 4.

Twenty Centuries of Mexican Art is a book of reproductions prepared to supplement and explain an exhibit held at the Museum of Modern Art in New York. The excellent pictures present a panorama of the artistic achievements of Mexico from the pre-Spanish days to the present. The Foreword indicates that probably no thoughtful person could look at the exhibition without—

provocative reflections about the nature and value of our two civilizations, for Mexican culture, as expressed in its art, seems in general to be more varied, more creative, and far more deeply rooted among the people, than ours. The Mexicans, of course, have one great advantage over us. They have an incomparably richer artistic past—two pasts, in fact—a European and a native, both of which survive in modified form today.

Inclusion of sections on pre-Spanish art, colonial art, folk art, modern art, with parallel English and Spanish texts, indicates the wide scope of the volume. The book should be introduced by adults to young people, unless students are accustomed to a serious study of Mexican art.

To a public educated in European ideals of art, any aesthetic manifestations not related to them may easily provoke a strong reaction because of their strangeness. Thus, when we are confronted with a whole culture and style entirely independent of any Asiatic or European influence, as with the aboriginal art of America, we may see it as a new revelation, and everyone may experience, now in the twentieth century, an artistic discovery of America.

If this book is to be on the open shelf, it may be advisable to remove pages 157, 173, and 179.

Grades 8–12

New Mexico. Work Projects Administration. Writers', Music, and Art Program. The Spanish-American Song and Game Book. See item 100.


Mexican markets are exciting because there one finds the many things which are made in Mexico. A variety of toys are to be purchased: lacquer birds, straw animals, clay banks in the shape of bright colored fruits or pigs. Masks are worn at festivals. Some are made of paper and others are carved from wood. The woven sarapes which the Mexicans wear are made in a variety of designs and colors.

The illustrations in black and white are useful for art classes. The simple line drawings show typical scenes, and each chapter heading has a typical design.

The last chapter consists of photographs of Mexican decorative art. Frescoes, pottery, glassware, and toys are included.

Grades 5–10
60. Thompson, John E. *Mexico Before Cortez*; an account of the daily life, religion, and ritual of the Aztecs and kindred peoples. Scribner, 1933. 298 p. $2.50.

Indian life in Mexico before the Spaniards came was highly civilized. Pyramids, temples, and palaces were huge and elaborate. Canals, bridges, markets, and a zoo were other impressive sights in Montezuma's city. The author of *Mexico Before Cortez* is an archaeologist who reconstructs the life of the Indians of the valley of Mexico. He explains the war customs, bloody religion, and other well-known aspects of Aztec life. Besides this the clothing, food, houses, education, amusement, and various details of the life of the populace are interestingly described. Chapters on arts and crafts, the calendar, and social organization complete the information about a fascinating period in history in America. Excellent photographs and reproductions of Indian drawings combine with a simple style to present a panorama of early Indian culture.

Grades 8-12


Frances Toor's book, though not written expressly for children, can be read by boys and girls of the intermediate grades. Young children interested in Mexico will appreciate the pictures. A brief, historical background of handcrafts forms the introduction which is followed by a chapter about how the Indian artist craftsmen live and work today. Weaving, regional dress, pottery, handblown glass, gold and silver crafts, toys, popular dishes, houses, popular painting are some of the arts which are explained and illustrated with pictures in color and photographs.

Grades 5-12

62. [Torre, Emilio de and others]. *The Latin-American Song Book*; varied and comprehensive collection of Latin American songs to be used and enjoyed by all who like to sing; complete with piano accompaniment; published in cooperation with the music division of the Pan American Union. Ginn, 1942. 128 p. Paper. 80 cents.

About 70 songs with piano accompaniment are included in this collection. The majority are in Spanish but there are also songs from Brazil as well as some Louisiana French and French Canadian. An introduction discusses the general sources of the songs while each selection has an individual note about the origin of the song and where it is sung today.

In addition to the English lyrics most of the songs have one verse in the original language.

The songs are varied and suited to group singing.

Grades 8-12
Adams, Ruth C. Sky High in Bolivia. See item 96.


Long, long ago, in Brasil, a terrible drought destroyed the land and all living things. When it seemed that the last family must perish, the spirit of the palm tree appeared to the little boy to tell him how the “Good Tree of Providence” could provide sap for his thirst, fruit for his hunger, roots for fuel and medicine, wax for light, straw for mats, nuts for new trees, and timber for shelter.

The full-page colored illustrations tell the story and supplement the text. The book can well be used in the upper grades as an example of Brazilian art and literature. The large type makes it useful in sight saving classes.

The Legend of the Palm Tree was awarded the prize by the Children’s Literature Committee of the Ministry of Education of Brasil, and is now available in the United States in an English translation.

For reading aloud to young children. Grades 3-4


Manuela longed for a doll with yellow hair. When her birthday came, all her friends helped to make it a happy day. They decorated the gate of her house with long strips of bright paper, and banana leaves and beautiful flowers. Manuela was very pleased. Meanwhile the American friends were busy making a yellow-haired doll for Manuela because they could not buy one in the little town where she lived. Manuela hoped they would come to call so that she could show them the gifts she had received. When they did come with their gift, Manuela’s day was complete.

The pictures are both sturdy and gay.
For reading aloud to young children. Grades 3-4

A picture book story of a little Indian boy, Pedro, who sat all day long in front of his earthen house watching two chickens to prevent their stealing the corn spread out in the sun to dry. When the family took their beautiful pottery to the market at Otavalo, Pedro's sister carried him on her back, and a tray of tangerines on her head. She put Pedro on the ground while she sold fruit to the passengers on the train. Pedro's adventure began when he crept across the platform, into the train, and climbed up to a seat in the coach.

That night the conductor took Pedro to his home in Quito. The next day they went to Guayaquil which smelled wonderfully of the cacao beans spread on canvas to dry. Pedro visited the great ship which had come up the river. He finally reached his mountain home and returned to watching the chickens.

The amusing sepia colored illustrations are done by the author.

For reading aloud to young children.   Grades 1-3


When Papa Jean decided to become a fisherman, the children were delighted to move from the country to a town by the sea on the Island of Haiti. Popo and Fifina helped with the washing, carried water, found soapweed, flew their kite along the beach, and one wonderful day went with the whole family for a picnic. Because Popo was 8 years old, it was time for him to work, so he went to the cabinet shop to learn the trade. The carving of his first tray is told with real understanding.

Grades 4-6


In this book the story of Tatu and Joe is continued. With their father and mother they go by plane to the northern part of Brazil, stopping at Baia and Belen. Then they travel up the Amazon in a river boat. Similar in style to the first book, individual chapters could well be used for reference material on such special topics as children's games, typical Brazilian food, or travel on the Amazon.

Grades 5-8

68. Brown, Rose J.  *Two Children of Brazil*; il. by Armstrong Sperry Lippincott, 1940. 220 p. $2.

Tatu, a boy of 11, and Joe, his 9-year-old sister, are children of a well-to-do Brazilian family who live on a tropical plantation.

The children find a wild pig in the jungles, which they take to a witch doctor; they collect butterflies and beetles, visit the coffee sheds, choose their costumes for the carnival from a peddler, go to a wonderful birthday party at the next plantation, and are caught in a sudden tropical storm.

In February the family goes to Rio de Janeiro for the Carnival. They visit the market, the famous Botanical Garden with the Royal Palm, and other places of interest. On their way to the top of Sugar Loaf Mountain in the cable car they meet two North American children with whom they make friends and compare Christmas traditions.
The story is packed with information on life in Brasil today. The black and white illustrations are informative and will be helpful in supplying pictures of animal and plant life or typical scenes.

Grades 5-8


Some of the problems of the descendants of the Maya Indians are presented in this story of modern Guatemala. Tomás is the symbol of the enslaved Mayan who have kept alive the tradition of their cultured ancestors ever since the Spanish conquest. Tomás has two great dreams: the freedom of his people and the hope that he may some day be a great sculptor. To him comes the responsibility of bringing to the President the message from his people. The two meet on a common ground of interest in art, and Tomás presents the cedar deer which he has carved. The President explains that in citizenship all persons have obligations—someone must harvest the coffee, just as someone must help build the roads. But he promises Tomás that forced labor is to be stopped by law. The story shows how significant the arts, including weaving, woodcarving, and dancing are to the life of the people. The author uses the Mayan numerals of dots and dashes to number the chapters. There is also an interesting vocabulary of Spanish and Indian words.

Grades 5-8


Even though Sebastian was proud of the peddler's pack which hung from the leather strap across his forehead, and proud of his new sandals and straw hat, he was frightened and lonely too, for a long mountain road lay ahead of him before he would sell all his wares.

This story of an Indian peddler boy in Guatemala tells much of the country. He met many people along the way. Gypsies befriended him; a kind priest took him home for the night and told him stories of his people in the days of the Spanish Conquest; but Sebastian's greatest joy was the parrot whom he bought and who proved a good companion for the trip.

At last, everything sold, he decided on a gift for his mother—a wonderful sewing machine.

It bowed him down as the pack had never done. He had to lean forward and help himself with his stick. And the road wound upward over the mountains for more than a hundred miles. But his heart was almost bursting with joy and pride.

Grades 5-7


The story of two Mexican children is told both through the text and the full-page photographic illustrations. Washday, the market, pottery making, weaving, plowing, and threshing are among the scenes described. The story is told simply and directly, and the illustrations are unusually clear and distinctive. Although written for young children, the book shows so much of the country both in family life and typical scenes, that it might very well be useful in interpreting Mexico to older students.

Grades 3-5
72. Eells, Elsie S. *Fairy Tales From Brazil;* how and why tales from Brazilian folk-lore; with il. by Helen M. Barton. Dodd, 1917. 210 p. $2.

In the collection of 18 *how and why* stories, there are many which introduce typical animals: the armadillo, the monkey, the Brazilian beetle. "How Light Came" is an imaginative story explaining why the tropical night comes so quickly. "Why the Bananas Belong to the Monkey" could be used as folklore material even in a more serious unit on products.

It is natural that folk tales indicate a blending of African and Brazilian lore. For example, the South American jaguar is spotted, so the story "How the Tiger Got His Stripes" shows this influence, even though the armadillo of the story is definitely South American.


The book takes its name from a symbol of the Inca's royalty, the imperial scarlet fringe with which the ruler was crowned.

In the foreword a brief and readable historical sketch sets the scene for the events of the story which tells of Peru 13 years after the coming of Pizarro. The puppet ruler Manco regained his freedom and hoped to drive out the Spaniards. The religious festivals connected with the sun are vividly told.

The theft of the Inca's ruby adds a melodramatic theme to the story.

The book ends with the death of the Inca and the escape of a small band of Indians to a hidden citadel in the Andes. *The Citadel of a Hundred Stairways* by Malkus could be used to link this story of the sixteenth century to the same scene in modern times.

Grades 6–10


Patagonia is the scene of a swift-moving adventure story. The author has lived in Patagonia and pictures that remote area authentically.

In *Give a Man a Horse* a number of adventures happen to a bold young man whose love of horses starts him on a long journey. A sailing trip from Seattle to Patagonia ends in a stay among the Indians of the South. There the hero learns much of their life and customs as well as finding an Indian treasure and having other exciting experiences.

Grades 6–10


Some of these 19 folk tales tell of the lands where "parrots screech and thousands of little monkeys chatter in the trees." Some are from "a corner of the world where winds are piercing cold and great black clouds scurry across a lead gray sky." They tell of the days when "a rat had a tail like a horse," and "a king wore a headdress of gold-green feathers and a feather cloak of turquoise blue." The flamingo, armadillo, iguana, and other typical birds and animals appear.
Many of the stories are prefaced by a brief account of how and where the author chanced to hear the tale. There is a wide variety both in locale and in subject matter.

76. Finger, Charles J. The Yankee Captain in Patagonia; il. by Henry C. Pitz. (Story Parade Adventure Book) Grosset, 1941. 74 p. 50 cents.

The Yankee captain's experience is based on an historical incident. A convict and his rebellious fellow-prisoners almost had succeeded in their bold plans when the Yankee captain outwitted them. This easy-to-read story includes a trip through the Straits of Magellan.

Fleming, Patricia C. Rico. See item 97.

77. Forester, Cecil S. To the Indies. Little, 1940. 298 p. $2.50.

Columbus' third expedition touched the Island of Trinidad and cruised for a short distance along the north coast of South America, then turned across the Caribbean to the settlement at Santo Domingo. The author uses this seldom-described voyage as the basis for an adventure story of jungle exploration, mutiny, and intrigue.

The character of Columbus is shown as a combination of a fanatic and capable navigator who, with a small sailing ship and the simplest instruments, set his course accurately. One of his men is amazed: "It is 7 weeks to the day since we left Cape Verde, and that was the last known land which we sighted. An error of 5 leagues in a voyage of 7 weeks! It is amazing—extraordinary." On another occasion this practical admiral comments on his newest discovery: "I think we must be close beside the Garden of Eden, the Earthly Paradise, where the Tree of Knowledge grows." The listener gazed at Columbus. Yesterday they had reached Ophir, today it was the Garden of Eden.

A trip in a small boat through part of the marshy delta of the giant Orinoco River forms one of the most exciting parts of the voyage. To the Indies is a tale of action with authentic historical background which mature students will enjoy.


Manuelito lived in a pink clay house with a red tile roof. He had six sisters. Each one helped with the breakfast. One made the coffee, one scraped the sugar from the big brown loaf, one ground corn meal, the fourth fried the black beans, the fifth boiled plantains, and the sixth little girl fried rice with garlic and onions. Then Manuelito and his father went to market to sell a cartload of wood. With the money they bought paint to decorate the oxcart for the contest.

The last part of the book tells of the Christmas celebration.

The preparation of a typical Costa Rican creche with the mountains and figures is so clearly described that it could be used by children for Christmas activities.

The illustrations are in vivid colors.

Available to schools in Cadmus Books. E. M. Hale, 96 cents.

For reading aloud to young children.

79. Hall, Esther G. Mario and the Chana; a boy and a bird of the Argentine; il. by J. M. de Aragon. Random House, 1940. 61 p. $2.
An amusing story of a boy who lived in Argentina. Although he was 12 years old, Mario did not have a knife of his own, but he wanted one very much. One day while he watched the goats, he caught a wild chuna and took the bird home for a pet. Unfortunately the chuna's trick of throwing pebbles brought disastrous results, for Mario's father was too often the victim. The pebbles fell in his maté gourd or knocked off his hat. But when the chuna saved his life, Mario's father was so grateful that he swore nothing should ever harm the bird, and he promised Mario a new knife for having trained the chuna so cleverly.

A trip to the store for maté, saving the chuna from a tar lake, and the excitement of an earthquake, are among the incidents related in the story.

Available to schools in Cadmus Books. E. M. Hale, 84 cents. Grades 5-6


Mayan Indians have added to their folk-tales much of the African lore told by the runaway slaves. This is seen in the first part of the book which consists of 10 adventures of Mr. Rabbit. They tell how again and again he outwitted the jaguar. Following this are 8 How and Why stories with such tales as "How the Frog Learned to Sing," "How Parrots Came to Be," or "Why the Mountain Trembles."

The last chapter tells a little about the life of the modern Mayan Indians of Guatemala. The illustrations by Antonio Sotomayor, the Bolivian artist, add to the charm of the book.

Grades 4-5

Kelsey, Vera. María Rosa. See item 98.


The friendship of a Peruvian Indian boy and the son of a North American engineer is the theme of a lively tale of the Andean region. Titu's grandfather, known as the Old One, is the character used to introduce the almost forgotten lore of the Incas. It is he who sends the boys to the ordeal which makes them worthy of being Knights of the Inca. Modern science and Quechuan customs are interwoven in this story of a gold mine.

Grades 7-10


High in the Peruvian Andes was a pure white baby llama, the pet of the little Indian boy, Cusi. "He is a true silver llama. Good luck goes with him," said Cusi's father. The life of the mountain herders is presented both in the story and in the gayly colored and significant black and white pictures: the quipu, or counting rope, musical instruments, the reed boats, homes, and costumes. The courage and faith of the Indians in adversity, and finally the miracle are described with keen insight and understanding.

Grades 5-7

The author has chosen the years just preceding the Spanish Conquest for this story of an Inca Prince. Tupak was deprived of his royal rank and treated as an outcast at the court because of a crime his father committed. The friendship of a little Princess who came to the palace at Cusco, and the loyalty of a soldier who befriended him, gave Tupak hope and the determination to regain his heritage. The plot moves swiftly, but at the same time, the reader gains a wealth of information on the Inca civilization.

Boys and girls will be thrilled with the final test of Tupak's courage and strength which came when he raced nine other lads who did not have his handicaps of a 6 days' fast, and a heavy burden to carry.

The illustrations, which are authentic, will be useful in making this period of history real to young readers of today.

Customs, typical dress, and architecture are pictured.


The establishment of commercial night flying in South America furnishes the background for this well-written story. The French author is a famous pilot who had experienced flying over the wastes of North Africa before he went to be a pilot in the expanding service of the South American lines.

The story concerns not only the hero who flies from Patagonia north in a storm, but the persons who await his arrival in Buenos Aires. The excitement tinged with fear which the pilot feels as he navigates the storm, the anxiety of his wife, the concern of the radio operators, and the rigid self-control of the officials all build the story to a dramatic climax.

The reader is given an insight into the sensations of night-flying:

The earth grew spangled with light signals as each house lit its star, searching the vastness of the night as a lighthouse sweeps the sea. Now every place that sheltered human life was sparkling ... They think, these peasants, that their lamp shines only for that little table, but from 50 miles away, someone has felt the summons of their light.

The deep emotional experiences of the characters are expressed in such a beautiful and vivid style that the simple plot is turned into a powerful, dramatic tale.

85. Sawyer, Ruth. The Least One; il. by Leo Politi. Viking, 1941. 89 p. $2.

Paco loved the Least One very much, even though the burro was "soft and gray and good-for-nothing." He dreaded the day when the heavy load would be put upon the animal's back; for in Mexico all burros must work.

At last the day came when the Least One, resenting the treatment given him, rolled in the ditch and broke the tiles he carried. Then Paco's father, for the first time in his life, wished evil on another. "Through thy height, thy width, thy thickness may thou be turned into a wooden burro." That night the Least One disappeared, but in the photographer's shop there appeared a wooden burro of the exact size and coloring of Chiquitico. Paco determined to buy him some day. The loyalty and deep affection of a child are clearly shown in this story of the miracle which restored to Paco a burro of "flesh and bone and hair and sweet breath."

The picture book story of a Caraja Indian boy is woven into an authentic description of Brazilian jungle life. The ceremonial dance, the making of the bow and arrow, the method of catching fish, and the various types of food are examples of episodes related. In the jungle Dohobare meets the anteater, the wild peccaries, monkeys, sloths, the jaguar, and the tapir, all of which are shown in the pictures.

For reading aloud to young children. Grades 5–6


Senor Coyote and the Rabbit are the chief characters of most of the 19 animal tales, many of which are similar to the Uncle Remus theme, or "Reynard the Fox," "The Snake Who Wanted to Fly," "The War Between the Lion and the Cricket," and "The Paisano Saves Baby Rabbit from Mr. Rattlesnake," are titles in the collection. The black and white illustrations picture the animals in Mexican sombreros and clothes.

Grades 3–5

88. Tarshis, Elizabeth K. *The Village That Learned to Read*; il. by Harold Haydon. Houghton, 1941. 159 p. $2.

Young and old alike were proud of the new school in their village in Mexico, and were glad to have a share in making it possible. That is, everyone but Pedro, who swore a terrible oath on the fiesta day when school opened: "May everything I eat turn to cactus on my tongue if ever I learn to read." For Pedro wanted to be a bullfighter, and felt that school was of no use to him because it was only a place for learning to read.

"Oh, no," said the teacher. "A school is ever so much more than that—at least it should be. It teaches all sorts of things: sewing and cooking, and farming, music and dancing, and making things with one's hands. And it should be a place for everyone, not just for the children. In many places the school is called 'The House of the People.'"

Still Pedro would not learn to read. It was not until he found that book knowledge could help a friend that he changed his mind.

The story is full of laughter, but with a basis of fact which incorporates much of a typical Mexican community.

Grades 5–8

89. Tee-Van, Helen D. *Red Howling Monkey*; the tale of a South American Indian boy; il. by the author. Macmillan, 1926. 142 p. $2.

Red Howling Monkey was a little Akawai Indian who lived in the jungles of South America. The author says:

I have written this story about a little Indian boy, whom I know very well. I have tried to tell you about the kind of life he leads, of his family, of his many animal pets, and of the great forest land in which he dwells. I know something about all these things, because I have lived there myself, and many of the adventures that befell the little Indian boy are adventures that I, too, have experienced.

30
Building a new home, preparing cassava, and making pottery are described.

Black and white illustrations picture the animals and many of the scenes which are mentioned in the text.

Grades 5-7

90. Thomas, Margaret L. **Carmelita sings; a Bolivian story.** Abingdon Press, 1935. 112 p. $1.

Carmelita lived in the Bolivian Andes. She loved to sing and to listen to music, but her days were busy. Taking grandmother to the market, or helping her sister who lived a day's journey from La Paz left few extra minutes. One day Carmelita met some North Americans who had come to take moving pictures and make maps of Bolivia. They asked her to help them in their camp. Because she liked hearing the victrola and trying to use the typewriter, Carmelita decided to stay, though often their ways seemed very queer.

Her brother, who drove a taxi in La Paz, was thrilled by the airplane, and even Carmelita's mother wanted to stay to cook for the foreigners. When at last the time came for the North Americans to leave, Carmelita was delighted to find that they had made it possible for her to study music at a school in La Paz.

Grades 5-7

91. Waldeck, JoBesse M. **Little Jungle Village; il. by Katharina von Dombrowski.** Viking, 1940. 176 p. $2.

A beautifully told story which is also authentic as to information. The book concerns two little Arawak Indians, Peh-weh, 11, and his sister Man-o, who is 9. They leave the tribe to start their own village, building their house and making the woodskin and its paddles. Gradually their family grows. There is Klee-klee, the baby sister who is left in their care, and then the jungle animals, the little sackiwinki and other pets. There is a dramatic scene on the swift river where the killer fish abound; and throughout the story come the call of the Red Howler and the quiet stealth of the jaguar. There is a wealth of information on jungle life.

A good story to read aloud.

Grades 5-8

92. Whitlock, Virginia B. **Maria Mello and Chiquito; in a jungle in Brazil beside the biggest river in the world, Maria Mello lived and played; il. by Robert W. Frome.** Hale, 1936. 48 p. (Picture scripts.) Paper, 15 cents; cloth, 44 cents.

An easy-to-read book about the Brazilian jungle. The children tame a monkey whom they save from a crocodile. When the monkey returns to the jungle, the children search for him. They see beautiful butterflies and birds, and watch men as they get the juice from the rubber trees, and cook it to make the big balls of rubber.

The many full page illustrations in black and white help to give small children a picture of the jungle.

Grades 2-4


Five Peruvians were killed when a bridge on the road between Lima and Cusco broke and dropped them into the abyss below. A young priest, about to cross the bridge, saw the tragedy and wondered, "Why did this happen to these five?"
He hoped to discover in their life stories the reasons for their deaths. The ambitions, hopes, fears, and accomplishments of each of the travellers are told up to the time when they began the fatal journey. The five stories are related to each other and are told against the background of eighteenth-century Peru. While the atmosphere of the colonial city of Lima gives romantic charm, it is the plot and characterisation which hold first place. The novel is an excellent example of the use of a Latin American setting by a contemporary North American writer.

Grades 10-12

94. Williams, Henry L. Kimbi; Indian of the Jungle; il. by Harry Daugherty. Heath, 1941. 47 p. (New World Neighbors Ser.) 32 cents.

Kimbi feared the day when the hunters would discover his pet monkey and kill it for food. Once he saved the monkey by a trick, but it brought the disapproval of the men. At last Kimbi proved both his courage and his skill as a hunter when he killed a jaguar and a tapir.

The story shows the everyday life in the jungles of Ecuador. A picture dictionary and illustrations in color and in black and white supplement the text.

Grades 4-6


Goya was a gaucho of the Argentine pampa, who enjoyed the freedom and independence of his life on the great plains. When his father was taken to prison, it became necessary for him to go to an estancia to work. Always he hoped to help his father gain his freedom again. The story depicts the life on the large ranches of the pampa, the typical wild animals, and the change which has come with the fencing in of the lands. There are thrilling incidents of outlaw chiefs, and the fine courage of Goya's father who saves the cattle from rustlers.

Grades 6-10

RECENT BOOKS


Malku, an Indian boy, lived in the Andes, 12,000 feet above sea level. Five main incidents give a background of life in the region near Lake Titicaca. The first chapters tell of the visit of Malku and his grandfather to La Paz. The other incidents are a visit to Lake Titicaca; the condor and the sheep; the preparing of the potatoes by freezing, pressing, and drying; and the search for vicuña wool.

The illustrations in color and in black and white show typical costumes and the setting for the story.

Grades 5-8

97. Fleming, Patricia C. Rico the Young Rancher; il. by Weda Yap. Heath, 1942. 64 p. (New World Neighbors ser.) 40 cents.

Because some day Rico will be head of a large farm in Chile, his grandmother impresses upon him his responsibilities: "First you must look after the lands, the crops, and the animals. Second, and more important, you must care for the
people on the land that count upon your aid and care. But even more important, you must see that they learn how they, and you, too, can best serve the new Chile.

In the story Rico faces his first real responsibility when he finds a sick child in one of the homes and knows he must get her to a doctor. The story closes with a description of a feast day.

Grades 5-7


Six-year old Maria Rosa wanted only one thing—to go to the carnival in Rio de Janeiro. Her brothers let her watch them play football. Her nurse took her to visit a private so on a coffee plantation. Grandfather invited her to go to the seashore, and the next day they went to the top of Sugar Loaf Mountain. But still Maria Rosa wanted to see the Carnival. So Grandfather took her in the car to watch the parade, and he gave Maria Rosa a little gold crown and a blue satin cape.

When King Momo came by on the great white float, drawn by 12 white horses, someone said, "The King should have a Queen." "I am the Queen," replied Maria Rosa. So it was that she came to sit beside King Momo on his throne, until her eyes closed and opened and closed . . . And the next thing Maria Rosa knew it was morning and she was in her own room at her own home.

The Portinari illustrations will be of special interest to art classes.

For reading aloud to young children. Grades 3-5


Pedro II, the Good Emperor; General Caxias, Soldier, Statesman, Hero; Baron Mauá, Father of Brazilian Industry; Carlos Gomes, Foremost Brazilian Composer; Santos-Dumont, Pioneer in Aviation, and General Rondon, Protector of the Indians, are the six men chosen to represent their country. The biographical sketches not only serve as an introduction to the individual men, but they also will give to young readers a background for the history of Brazil.

Grades 6-8


A collection of 38 games which are still sung or spoken in Spanish in New Mexico. Music is given for the 14 which are singing games. The words of the songs and the directions for playing the games are in both Spanish and English. The directions are clear; and the illustrations not only add charm to the book but are helpful in explaining how the games are played.

The games vary in difficulty. They are suited to children from kindergarten through elementary grades. The fact that the text is also in Spanish will make the book useful in classes studying the language.

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