Ohioana

Of Ohio and Ohioans • Winter, 1959

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The Best of McDermott

The Selected Writings of
WILLIAM F. McDERMOTT

Foreword by John Mason Brown

Drama critic and columnist of the Cleveland Plain Dealer — Alexander Woollcott called him "the best drama critic in America" — William McDermott was a man of the theater and a man of the world, a critics' critic whose columns were eagerly read from coast to coast, for what he wrote transcended mere journalism. Here is his best in a book as diverting as it is thought-provoking.

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Don Quixote, ancestor of this and every other publishing venture, saw only the things of the spirit in which he believed and, questing after them, came to spiritual victory and worldly mishap. Like him, Ohioana's spirit must, in this era of material unreality, be halted by the economics of the dollar.

Three years ago this month, the "Committee on the Proposed Periodical" drew up its lengthy, hopeful Report to the Board of Trustees recommending the creation of an Ohioana magazine, with these necessary, fettering recommendations: "Free to members the first year, with a charge thereafter. To be issued for two years on a trial basis. If successful, to be continued; otherwise, discontinued." Encouraged by the magazine's acceptance, the Board of Trustees dipped not once but perilously twice into the Association's limited reserves for two full years' member subscriptions.

Now comes the piper with his wagging finger and an inevitable, though modest, rise in dues to underwrite the future of the Association and Ohioana. The "Committee on the Proposed Periodical," now your graying, wiser Board of Editors, appears, hat in hand for your favor. How say you, gentle readers? May we quest another year?

EUGENE D. RIGNEY
Chairman
Board of Editors
When the creator of "Get-Rich-Quick Wallingford" meets the hero of "If I Were King"

AS ONE CELEBRITY TO ANOTHER

By CLYDE W. PARK

Formerly head of the department of English in the College of Engineering, University of Cincinnati, Clyde W. Park was recently appointed editor of the Lincoln Library of Essential Information, well-known encyclopedia published by the Frontier Press Co. Prof. Park served for ten years as contributing editor of the encyclopedia, conducting the special departments of biography, usage, and English Literature. His home is in Cincinnati, a city about which he has written often and fondly.

Shortly after the turn of the century a reporter on The Cincinnati Enquirer began to branch out as a writer of fiction. Like a good many other practitioners of his craft, he found imaginative writing a welcome change from scrupulously accurate accounts of everyday happenings. His short stories, being fresh in content and distinctive in style, achieved publication in several well-known magazines, including The Saturday Evening Post.

Particularly successful were his stories which dealt with a character named J. Rufus Wallingford, ("Get-Rich-Quick Wallingford") a promotion-minded business man whose ingenuity was not restrained by ethical scruples. By gradual stages the Wallingford stories grew into a book—in fact, a best-seller. Their author, George Randolph Chester, gained national recognition as a literary celebrity, the envy of amateurs whose writings were earning a plentiful supply of rejection slips.

Notwithstanding his fame and the financial rewards of his fiction writing, Chester continued his regular work as a reporter. In fact, he often said that the various assignments which came to him in this capacity were his best source of ideas and background for stories. In his quest for new material and unusual local color he sometimes went beyond the call of reportorial duty and sought new experiences wherever he could find them.

Becomes An Actor

It was in this spirit that Chester once enlisted as a supernumerary actor. E. H. Sothern's production of "If I Were King" required a group of swordsmen to surround and support the hero, François Villon, in the big scene of the play. Along with a dozen or more students from the University of Cincinnati, Chester received preliminary training, part of it from the great Sothern (Villon) himself. At a certain climactic moment the swordsmen were to form a semi-circle at the front of the stage, with the commanding figure of Villon in the center. In his instructions, Sothern emphasized one point particularly. He said:

When I speak the words, "If Villon were the King of France," all your swords must flash from their scabbards at the same instant. If any one draws his sword earlier or later than the rest, he will attract attention to himself, and away from me.

On the night of the performance the well-drilled swordsmen were ready when the big moment came. Out of breathless suspense their cue sounded in the ringing words, "If Villon were the King of France!" Then all the swords flashed out—that is, all but one. Chester's weapon stuck in its scabbard. Dislodging it required delay and strenuous effort. Out of the corner of his eye Sothern noted the unfortunate bit of by-play, but he would have to deal with it later.

Deluge Of Profanity

The applause was deafening. The curtain rose and Sothern stepped forward, bowing graciously to acknowledge the plaudits of the audience. Then, when the curtain fell, he turned upon Chester, whose identity he did not suspect, and loosed a veritable deluge of profanity. Between curtain calls he repeated this performance, disclosing a repertory of profane expletives like nothing the guardsmen had ever heard.

A few days later, in accordance with arrangements made months previously, the well-known author, George Randolph Chester, appeared in the University of Cincinnati auditorium to deliver an address on "The Art of Fiction." When he was introduced, a group of young men rose and chanted in unison: "François Villon!" Chester began his address with the words, "Ladies and gentlemen, and comrades in arms!"

JUST PLAYS

Just Plays by Mrs. Ben B. Nelson is being published by The Court Index Press of Cincinnati under the sponsorship of the Cincinnati Woman's Club. The club has over the years produced the plays which comprise two Christmas plays, two short one-act plays just for women, and three short three-act plays.
WILLIAM DONOHUE ELLIS of Cleveland, author of The Brooks Legend (Crowell) has received a certificate of honorable mention from The Friends of American Writers. Two such certificates were given for "books published during the previous calendar year written by a native or resident Mid-westerner, or with a Mid-west locale." The $1000 award went to Paul Darcy Boles for his novel Tarton's Island (Macmillan).

ALL ABOUT SATELLITES AND SPACE SHIPS (Random) has sold over 40,000 copies to date. The author, David Dietz of Cleveland, is at work on another children's book for the same publisher.

THE YEAR WHICH HOLLIS SUMMERS, the Kentucky writer, spent as Visiting McGuffey Professor of Creative Writing at Ohio University produced his newest book The Walks Near Athens, (Harper & Bros., 1959, $3.00), consisting of 56 poems.

A SHORT STORY by Prof. Peter Taylor of the English faculty of Ohio State University has won first prize in the 1959 O. Henry Awards. The story is: "Venus, Cupid, Folly and Time.

If you like murder and sudden death, you can find as much of it in the old days as today. Russell W. Frey's The History and Legends of Rogues' Hollow (Rittman Press, Rittman), published late last year, tells of gory doings back in the last century that make some of our contemporary "bad guys" look like pantywaists. Maybe we moderns aren't as bad as we think.

WERNER JAMES LOSH, a composer of Dayton, to hear his First Symphony played had to fly to Belgium, where the work was performed by Daniel Sternfeld and the National Radio Orchestra. A tape recording of the performance was broadcast to this country via short wave and will be broadcast later in the Belgian Congo and Latin America.

EDITOR'S NOTE: The Ohioana Medals which the Library awards each year always elicit much favorable comment. Their origin is described in the following article by Edna M. Clark (Mrs. James E. Clark), the leading authority on Ohio art, author of Ohio Art and Artists (1932) and a Trustee of this Library.

Medals were originally presented to persons who exhibited great valor or had performed heroic services in time of war. Eventually medals were presented for outstanding efforts in any field of endeavor. Now many organizations are pleased to pay tribute in the form of a medal for remarkable achievements. The Congressional Medal is the only one requiring approval of Congress before it can be bestowed upon any one.

The Ohioana Library decided it wanted to recognize some of our distinguished Ohioans for their supreme efforts in the field of arts and letters. It seemed that there was only one way to honor them properly, that was by a medal. Medals had usually been made of metal—gold, silver, or bronze. Since Ohio stands in first rank in the medium of ceramics, why not a ceramic medal? That medium was unanimously selected by the Board of Trustees.

Then, what should be the design that would best represent Ohio? Everything, even a flying Pegasus, was suggested. No, no, it must definitely be an Ohio Subject! Ohioans are extremely proud of their state seal, so here was the place to use it; surely it would please everybody. The result was a circular medal, bordered with the legend "The Martha Kinney Cooper Ohioana Library Award." In the center, in relief, is the state seal in pure white, on a pure blue background. It is a beautiful blue—the blue

(Concluded on page 149)
Focuses on individual soldiers in the Battle of Gettysburg

A Novel of the Civil War

Stresses Idea of Duty


Don Robertson, a native of Cleveland Heights, attended Harvard and Western Reserve. For nine years he was a reporter on the Plain Dealer and for the last two years he has been on the Cleveland News.

"Virginia was tired and scarred; the time had come to scar the enemy's lands." Pennsylvania was "fat and rested and fecund." It was early July, "a time of green growing things," when the opposing forces blundered into each other at a "Place called Gettysville. No, Gettysburg. Pretty little place, with a college."

This does Don Robertson of the Cleveland News etch the background for his excellent first novel.

Make no mistake, this is more than a good short history of those three critical days. The novel's brief interpolations describing the grand strategies and grand errors are accurate enough, and convey more of the feeling of battle and death than many historical analyses of battle orders and casualty lists. But the author has added individuals. And since they live as individuals, the novel is more than a history, and far, far more than an historical novel.

How can Robertson make characters live, while describing the actions of thousands? If you have toured Gettysburg you will recall a pamphlet note telling how, fifty-one years after the battle, the remains of three Union soldiers were unearthed. Two five-dollar gold coins were found in one of the shoes. I admit ruefully to having seen this note; I wondered briefly and then moved on. Robertson, however, saw in those gold coins an opportunity to tie the grand events of the battle to the individual human beings who fought there; to picture the events with accuracy, the humans with artistic insight. A lesser artist would have over-used the coins. The author only uses them to spotlight his characters, and to remind the reader that this story ends in earth.

Some Aspects Of Duty

One is reminded of death in the opening sentence: "The morning of the day two days before the day he died . . . "

It is a novel, also, of sex; but of charmingly un-Kinseylike memories of unsatisfied desires. Most importantly, however, the characters live to teach us some aspects of an old-fashioned word, duty.

Those few characters who do not touch this subject do not come alive.

Patterson was afraid; and afraid most of all of what fear was doing to him. "He had a faith in pride, or at least he always thought he had." He learns that he will never conquer his fright; but he will learn to live with fear. He will march—"When you thought of marching you thought of parades; you didn't think of this." He will kill—"When you thought of killing you never thought of no mess." And he will give to himself and his enemies the little ceremonies that lend dignity to human living and dying.

Mabry is interfused animal cunning, animal greed, and animal values. He is determined to return from war with a leg up on the good southern life; determined no longer to be received by a planter only at the back door. No coward, he will fight when he has to. But convinced that man's ration of luck on any day is limited, he is soon behind the lines looting the dead of their gold teeth, rings and coins. With no respect for anything save force, he cannot understand what blessed luck keeps others from looting the dead in competition with him. Ironically, the weight of the loot he lugs finally kills him.

A Taste For Killing

Others do their duty, and come to death. Castetter, a former reporter, "a greasy hack—reporting the venal acts of venal men," saw things as pointless and ridiculous, and hated himself for what he saw. Strong was forced to do his duty. Fat, accustomed to behind-the-lines paperwork, his taste for killing was whetted at the Peach Orchard. This taste, one feels, may have been good for the army, but bad for man.

"Wheatfield" Johnson is the novel's protagonist. He remembered 1861, "when the drums was drumming and the bands was playing and all the girls ran out in the street and kissed you . . . " But in 1863, "you always was dirty, and your camp . . . was cold as hell and smelled like an old outhouse, and when there (Concluded on page 149)
A FURTHER FORETASTE of GOOD THINGS to COME

More samplings from some of the contributed articles which will appear in the Library's book edited by Dr. William Coyle

In the volume OHIO AUTHORS AND THEIR BOOKS, which we expect to have ready for publication late in 1960, sketches of about one hundred notable Ohio writers will be contributed by persons especially familiar with their careers. We have been delighted with the response to our requests for contributed sketches, and we feel that they will add both variety and significance to the volume.

The brief excerpts below are just a random sampling of the sketches already received.

MOSES DAWSON
About 1817 Dawson came out to Cincinnati where he opened a Lancastrian school on Water Street, devoted to education divorced from religion. Within two years the school closed its doors, and Dawson's rough-and-tumble newspaper career opened up with his column in the Inquisitor and Cincinnati Advertiser. Shortly thereafter he became proprietor and remained with the paper until old age brought his retirement in 1841.

VIRGINIUS C. HALL

DANIEL DRAKE
At the age of fifteen, with barely more than a smattering of reading, writing and arithmetic, he was apprenticed as student of medicine to Dr. William Goforth of Cincinnati. He was indefatigable and possessed an eager mind and a retentive memory, as is shown by progress so rapid that his preceptor took him into full partnership at the end of four years. It was then that Dr. Goforth gave his pupil a "diploma," the first issued west of the Allegheny Mountains, which attested to Drake's knowledge of "physic, surgery and midwifery."

EMMET FIELD HORINE

TIMOTHY FLINT
He is probably more frequently mentioned as the one man in Cincinnati Mrs. Trollope thought worthy of favorable notice than as a writer. Yet for nearly a decade, 1826-1834, he was without a doubt the leading literary figure in Cincinnati if not in the whole Western country.

Van Wyck Brooks gives impressionistic picture of the famous Ohioan and his world


Reviewed by ROBERT PRICE, Chairman, Department of English, Otterbein College. Dr. Price is the author of Johnny Appleseed: Man and Myth, a definitive biography.

In 1941 Van Wyck Brooks' alter ego, Oliver Allston, reported that he had never got around to reading William Dean Howells' novels until he was forty-five. Then, for the first time, he discovered how good they really were.

That would have been in the 1930's. Meanwhile, for years, Brooks had been a major critical force in directing a new literary generation to the belief that most American writing for a half century had been stamped with sterile Victorianism and that Howells, the eminently successful and revered leader of that era, was to be condemned as a timid, prudish escapist who insisted upon looking only at the "smiling aspects of life," and for whom the limits of printable realism stopped with what was suited to the eyes of easily blushing maidens. Since the twenties few young American critics have dared omit at least one slanting allusion to Howells' timid gentility.

In 1948, though, through the Chilmark Miscellany, Brooks let it be known that his views had changed. The world of Howells' novels, he said, was a revelation. It was "the real American scene, reflected in a burnished mirror, as no American eye had ever perceived it. . . . Through decade after decade Howells followed the life of the nation, and he caught so many of its phases that as a social historian he had no equal."

Recantation

Now, in Howells: His Life and World, Brooks gives his full and generous recan-
Brooks uses biography chiefly as a frame for his own vivid, impressionistic reconstruction of Howells' changing era from 1860 to 1920. For this, he utilized an abundance of materials gleaned largely from Howells' own long and sweeping reportage. The world that emerges is a rather quiet one. It had little of the sordid and twisted in it. There was healthy optimism, for the most part, and a natural idealism. It was balanced by a willing acceptance of the ordinary and commonplace realities where most people have to live, and where Howells himself found his surest approach to the essential truth and beauty of things. According to his philosophy, he had no right to chronicle any other part, and a natural idealism. It was balanced by a willing acceptance of the ordinary and commonplace realities where most people have to live, and where Howells himself found his surest approach to the essential truth and beauty of things. According to his philosophy, he had no right to chronicle any other

Living in Columbus

"Before the Civil War broke out," Brooks begins, "William Dean Howells had been living for three or four years in Columbus, Ohio, where, as a reporter attached to the State Legislature, he had his own desk in the capitol building."

Actually, young Howells had been a reporter attached to the capitol only off and on between January, 1857, and spring, 1858. From November, 1858, until March, 1860, he had been an editor on the Ohio State Journal. Then having been released from the Journal he had been employed by Follett and Foster of Columbus as a general hack writer, working especially on a campaign biography of Abraham Lincoln. And in June, 1860, when Brooks begins his story, young Howells was without a job, but with the earnings from his Lincoln, he was starting a trip East, the aftercourses of which were to prove momentous both for himself and for American letters. Brooks' book will supplement, but in no way replace, the basic two-volume life by Edwin H. Cady.

As usual, Brooks documents little. The six-page index is confined to names of real-life people. Students delving into the valuably discerning critical analyses will wish that it had been extended to include at least the many important references to Howells' individual books.

Ohioana: Ohio and Ohioans

Ohio Oddities for Ohioans to Ponder

(Readers are invited to ask queries as well as to answer them.)

Mrs. Harold McCormick, Ohioana's Pike County Co-Chairman, writes a most interesting column "Scene About Town" in the Waverly News. By appealing to her readers she was recently able to fill in the last lines of the alphabetical poem beginning

"A is for Arab who has a dark skin,
B is a beggar both ragged and thin,"

et cetera.

How many of our readers remember the last line of that poem? Q

Prof. Preston B. Albright of Miami University reports that in driving around he has discovered roads such as Hog Path Pike, Chicken Bristle Road, Dog Leg Road, Sweet Potato Ridge Road. Can any of our readers come up with similarly unusual road names? Q

Salem in Columbiana County is the home of the Salem Fossil Club which recently had an exhibit of unusual fossils featuring mastodon bones, dinosaur teeth and similar relics of the past. What other places have clubs as interesting as this one? Q

Have any of our readers ever seen a hoop snake? David Webb of Chillicothe is collecting information about them. Q

Who has memories or family stories about the passenger pigeon, now extinct? This Library is gathering information about that bird. Q

Was oil found near Macksburg, north of Marietta, in 1859 or in 1860? Authorities seem to differ as to the year although they agree that the discovery was on October 11. Grace Goulder has written about this in the Cleveland Plain Dealer Pictorial Magazine. Q

Lots of Ohioana members (a notably loyal group) send us clippings from their local papers about things we are interested in, such as Ohio books, authors, composers, etc. We are grateful for their help. We now ask them to go the second mile by putting on every clipping the name of the paper and the date.
MORE LAMBS FROM OHIO

Seventh and final installment of a series of biographical sketches of Ohioans who are members of the Lambs, America's oldest theatrical club.

By Russ Johns, a Lamb from Chillicothe now living in New York where for years he has been directing radio programs for the Columbia Broadcasting System.

15. EARL WILSON

Earl Wilson says his birthplace is so small that the only time anyone sees it in print is when he writes it. Located south of Toledo, and with a population of about a thousand, the little town of Rockford has a real claim to fame in Earl Wilson. He insists on not hurting anyone in his writings, if possible, and has tried to avoid malicious gossip.

In 1930 he couldn't quite make the college editorship at Ohio State. Today he covers page one personalities and human interest all over the country. His New York apartment he calls "Hillbilly Hall." In 1956-57 he had his own show "The Jonathan Winters Show" (a fact he added to the merriment of millions in 1943 was the year that Wilson got the Broadway columnist call. With himself as the butt of his humorous articles he soon had the readers with him. He was "different." Even his books had a different slant: "I'm Gazing Into My Eight-Ball, Pike's Peek or Bust, Let 'Em Eat Cheesecake, and Look Who's Abroad Now.

His wife wanted him to dedicate his first book to her. He finally solved the problem this way: "To the wonderful little woman who darns my socks, rears my son and cooks my meals—my mother-in-law."

16. JONATHAN WINTERS

Jonathan Winters may have given his parents a chuckle that day in Dayton when he made his first appearance—Nov. 11, 1925. For he certainly has added to the merriment of millions in recent years. My first encounter with Jonathan took place in The Lambs, where he had everyone in stitches, as they say in comedy circles. (I secretly believe he was trying out new material for his next appearance, and I admired him for his courage. To make another actor laugh you have to be good!)

Jonathan is a very cheerful man, popular with his co-workers, and has had a steady successful career since he spent those formative years at Springfield High, and Kenyon College in Gambier. Then two and a half years in the Marine Corps in the South Pacific aboard the U.S.S. Bonhomme Richard, Task Force 38. Three years of commercial art at the Dayton Art Institute, and in 1948 disc-jockey at WING in Dayton followed by WBNS in Columbus as staff announcer and character actor. January is not the best of all possible months to come to New York to make a fortune, but 1952 was the year, and January was the month. (I suppose for a man named Winters to arrive in a summer month would have been unpoetic!)

However, the rest is recent TV, theatre and night club history. In TV the list includes "Today", "The Garry Moore Show", "Steve Allen Show", "Jack Paar Show", "Arlene Francis Show", "Omnibus", "Studio One" and many others. In 1956-57 he had his own show "The Jonathan Winters Show" (a fact he almost forgot to tell me!) The night club bookings include the best across the land. Jonathan and his wife Eileen and their son and daughter live in Hastings-on-Hudson, New York.

Critics have been kind to Jonathan Winters, and with good reason. He is a talented man, and a very friendly one. I think modesty and thrift also can be included in those virtues. He says "You might add that I write most of my own material. Not bragging, just trying to save!"

17. LOUIS VAN ROOTEN

Louis Van Rooten, though not born in Ohio, "would like to be included", as he played an active part in the architectural field in Ohio. After graduation from the Univ. of Pa. School of Architecture, Louis eventually became an Associate in the firm of Charles Bacon Rowley Associates, Inc., in Cleveland. With them he worked on the Cleveland Playhouse, Cleveland Country Club, the Shaker Square Development, plus a lot of development work in Ohio generally.

His acting career started at the Cleveland Playhouse, and included WTAM and WGG, etc. In 1935 Louis was Special Assistant to the State WPA Supervisor with headquarters in Columbus. His job was to coordinate the various art projects into a radio set-up. So in spite of now making his home in the east, Louis "still feels closely associated with the state, and still maintains his architectural license to practice in Ohio." That should make him at least one-half Buckeye!

Oxford String Quartet Opens Its Season

The Oxford String Quartet, Miami University artists-in-residence group, is combining services to public school music with its concert tours as it opens its fourteenth season. For example, its first tour, comprising concerts in Lexington, Ky., and Dayton, Wooster and Alliance included informal sessions with young string musicians and orchestrists in the public schools of Alliance, Shaker Heights, East Cleveland and Cleveland.

Personnel of the quartet has remained the same since the addition of its newest member, Adon Foster, violinist, in 1953. Elizabeth Walker, violinist, and Elizabeth Potteiger, cellist, were in the original group in 1946. Joseph Bein violist, has been a member since 1948.
HE PAINTS OHIO'S MANY ASPECTS

Even Our Weather Yields
Works of Art at His Hands

By Marie Kirkwood

A truly Ohio artist is Frank N. Wilcox. Born, reared and educated here, he paints our state, its natural beauty, its city and rural local color, the events in its history.

He works in oil and watercolor, especially in the latter, with a genius for catching, with a brush flick, a mood of nature, the characteristic form or gesture of a person or animal.

In one of his last years of teaching at the Cleveland Institute of Art, from which he retired in 1957 after a connection of over 40 years as student and faculty member, he published the extraordinary book, Weather Wisdom. It is the record of his lifetime observation of the seasons in Ohio. Not the ordinary dreary tabulation of temperatures, snow and rainfalls but a series of silk screen paintings of days memorable for special weather quality. Each carries its own comment, often woven around some homely midwest country saying, starting with January's "When days begin to lengthen, the cold begins to strengthen."

Ohio Indian Trails

He has also written and illustrated the book, Ohio Indian Trails. Research for it supplied him with much lore of the original inhabitants of our state and he is sought after as a lecturer on the subject.

The Ohio Canal always fascinated Mr. Wilcox. He painted it over and over. He also did such figure compositions as
political and patriotic parades in Cleveland, Fourth of July Celebrations, church box socials, the events of the year on the farm.

They are superb examples of impressionist paintings, sure draftsmanship, expert brushwork. Their subjects recall charming customs, now, unfortunately, often forgotten.

Though born in Cleveland, Mr. Wilcox spent much of his childhood in the country, visiting his large kinship in the Brecksville area.

He was one of the most favored pupils of the late Henry G. Keller at the Institute of Art,—where he met his wife, Florence,—and worked every year in Mr. Keller's summer sketching school on his farm at Berlin Heights. In his gift to catch the mood of weather, Mr. Wilcox's admirers have felt he surpassed his teacher.

He Paints Constantly

In his retirement, Mr. Wilcox finds renewed health. He paints constantly. Late last winter he and Mrs. Wilcox made a three-months motor trip to Florida. Going down they ran through a rare blizzard in Virginia. He sketched and photographed it, brought back similar records of both coasts of the peninsula, of the Georgia scrub country, and the Louisiana bayous—though even the artists he met wondered what beauty he could see in these flat areas. Immediately on return he set to work putting his notes into paintings. No question about the beauty he saw everywhere. They were exhibited in the gallery of the Cleveland Society of Artists and sold at a great rate.

He was graduated from the Institute in 1910, two years before the famous "Armory Show" was held. He went at once to Paris, saw the Salon of the Independents at which Picasso and Braque first made showy appearances and a big Matisse show.

He didn't like any of these things as well as the old masters in the Louvre.

Mr. Wilcox has never painted non-objective pictures. He has not much sympathy with abstract art, considering most of it poorly designed. A traditional landscape, still life or portrait can also be good if properly designed, is his contention—and it should be.

He heartily approves art education's present emphasis on design, but also thinks we should put up a good fight for old-fashioned drawing and painting discipline as well. Art schools, he believes, are in agreement with this, but have to combat student laziness—the attitude of "Why should I learn to draw when I am going to paint abstraction?" But the discipline of learning to draw is just what abstraction needs, Mr. Wilcox believes.

His sister, the late Miss Ruth Wilcox, was for many years head of the fine arts department of the Cleveland Public Library.

**ZEVIN IS CHAIRMAN**

Ben D. Zevin, president of the World Publishing Company of Cleveland and New York and noted book lover and collector (his personal library is outstanding), is Chairman of Ohio's Citizens Committee for National Library Week which in 1960 will be celebrated April 3-9. Governor DiSalle is Honorary Chairman of the Ohio Committee.
McDermott Was Member of Plain Dealer Staff

Few newspapermen of our time have won a wider, more admiring and devoted following than William F. McDermott, late of the Cleveland Plain Dealer. His column was daily "must reading" for all Clevelanders and the Plain Dealer's out-of-town circulation was materially increased by regular readers of his pieces in all parts of this country and even abroad.

Mr. McDermott was a penetrating and exceptionally well-informed writer about and critic of things theatrical. He wrote fascinating travel pieces, arrestingly of the political scene, was a World War II correspondent of note, had profound things to say about journalistic theory and practice and could whip out wholly delightful and/or touching reports and commentaries on small matters of everyday living.

The Best of McDermott, as the title implies, is an anthology of the columns he wrote for the Plain Dealer during his long and distinguished service as a member of its staff. The range of his work is most readily explained by noting that the reprinted columns are grouped under such headings as The Theater, Reflections on Politics, The Writer and His Trade, The Sportsman and His Dog, The Fiber of Society, The Wandering Journalist, The Daily Round.

A Great Columnist

Some of the material is of dated interest, most is as alive and pertinent as it was when it was first printed. McDermott, in his lifetime, was known as a great columnist. Reading his columns in book form it is borne in on one that he was a brilliant essayist, in the most literary sense of the term and a stylist of the first order.

The Best of McDermott may be read in orderly fashion, from first to last page, with pleasure and profit. Really to savor its content, however, browse through it more casually, reading and, most likely re-reading immediately, a paragraph or a random sentence here, an entire essay there, or an entire section at one take.

And after you've read McDermott take up John Mason Brown's appreciative foreword and Philip W. Porter's terminal memorial tribute. This way you'll know how wholly a remarkable figure McDermott was as a writer and as a man.


William F. McDermott

Reviewed by Samuel T. Wilson, Drama Critic and Columnist of The Columbus Dispatch. A graduate of Harvard, he has been on The Dispatch for 24 years and holds an honorary degree of Doctor of Humanities from Capital University.

OUR MEDAL

(continued from page 135)

the Japanese call, "the-blue-that-shows-between-the-clouds-after-a-rain."

Baggs And Bogatay

The design and the creation of the medal were developed by Arthur E. Baggs and Paul Bogatay, both professors in the Fine Arts Department of the Ohio State University, and both winners of many ceramic honors. From the design a mold was made, filled with a mixture of very fine white clay and fired. This all sounds easy, but actually it exacted the most painstaking attention.

To hold the medal, Beck and Orr, book binders, made an elegant leather-bound hinged case, lined with blue silk to match the blue in the background of the medal. Placed on the opposite side of the case, facing the medal, was an inscription giving the name and achievement of the winner. This was executed in the beautiful lettering made by W. D. Turnbull, Dean of the College of Engineering, the Ohio State University.

The medal was created during the administration of Mrs. H. L. Bevis as President and Mrs. Depew Head as Executive Director of the Ohioana Library.

Thus runs the story of the development of the Ohioana medal. Through the years it has been an incentive to greater and greater achievement. It is a cherished honor that recipients covet more than any other they could receive.

CIVIL WAR NOVEL

(continued from page 137)

was a battle you saw men sliced in half or beheaded, with legs and arms and feet and hands and other things shot off . . . " Safe behind Confederate lines, what made this prisoner escape? Safe with an injured companion at a farmhouse, what made him drift east toward the battle sounds? Safe once more at a farm—with a girl, moreover, who loved him, what made him circle the flank of battle toward his corps?

Duty moved Johnson. Duty cannot be explained, lest it sound falsely heroic. Duty is inarticulate—a stubborn, unreasoning ought. So Wheatfield Johnson carried the coins from safety to their fifty-one year resting place.

Ohioana: Ohio and Ohioans
Frivolousness Is Weakness Of New Novel by Purdy

Comic Characterizations Yield No Comedy In Malcolm


James Purdy, born in 1923 in Ohio, is the author of 63: Dream Palace, a novella which was published with some short stories under the title of Color of Darkness. He has also written a number of other works, including the novel, The Sorrows of Young Werther.

Malcolm, the author of this novel, is a native of Ohio, has had an even better luck. A year or so ago the London Times Literary Supplement announced that Purdy had been published in the United States. In short, Mr. Purdy has been known in America to be among the most resplendent figures on the literary scene. But this was before Mr. Purdy's 63: Dream Palace, which on publication was instantly an enormous success. James Purdy, who was before Mr. Purdy's novel, has had even better fortune. In so far as it is loosely constructed and episodic, it is picaresque:

Byron, it will be remembered, awoke one morning and found himself famous—but that was in his own country, and what made him famous was Childe Harold, which on publication was instantly an enormous success. James Purdy, who is a native of Ohio, has had even better luck. A year or so ago the London Times Literary Supplement announced that Purdy had been published in the United States. In short, Mr. Purdy has been known in America to be among the most resplendent figures on the literary scene. But this was before Mr. Purdy's 63: Dream Palace, which on publication was instantly an enormous success. James Purdy, who was before Mr. Purdy's novel, has had even better fortune. A year or so ago the London Times Literary Supplement announced that Purdy had been published in the United States. In short, Mr. Purdy has been known in America to be among the most resplendent figures on the literary scene. But this was before Mr. Purdy's 63: Dream Palace, which on publication was instantly an enormous success. James Purdy, who was before Mr. Purdy's novel, has had even better fortune. A year or so ago the London Times Literary Supplement announced that Purdy had been published in the United States. In short, Mr. Purdy has been known in America to be among the most resplendent figures on the literary scene. But this was before Mr. Purdy's 63: Dream Palace, which on publication was instantly an enormous success. James Purdy, who was before Mr. Purdy's novel, has had even better fortune.

But there is one freedom which a literary artist does not have: he cannot be ignorant of his craft. In 1798 Jane Austen wrote, "An artist cannot do anything slovenly." This is, it seems to me, a half truth. Theodore Dreiser, for instance, despite a congenital slovenliness of construction and style, succeeded in writing great novels. He had, however, a great and angry vision; his rude masterpieces display not ignorance of the rules, but carelessness. Mr. Purdy, to judge by Malcolm, has very little to say, and says that little without any particular distinction. His novel, considered as a work of art, succeeds merely in being dull.

Malcolm, nonetheless, has its literary precedents. In so far as it is loosely constructed and episodic, it is picaresque: the hero moves from one bizarre adventure to another but, unlike the picaresque hero, Malcolm ends up dead (in all candor Malcolm looks like a picaresque novel by a man who has read The Sorrows of Young Werther too often). In so far as it is the tale of a young man's search for his father, Malcolm is a Sophoclean, but Mr. Purdy has rung in some changes: Oedipus saw but did not recognize his own father; Malcolm recognizes his own father all right (in a washroom), but Malcolm's father does not recognize Malcolm. In so far as Mr. Purdy's novel is the account of a young man's entrance into the world, Malcolm is a Bildungsroman—with perhaps as deep an indebtedness to Fanny Burney's Evelina as to any other work. Evelina, however, was a young girl of spirit, though also something of a prig. Malcolm is nothing of a prig but he is, as he says on Page 31, "a cypher and a blank." This condition, though sad, is not very interesting.

Theme Of Isolation

Finally, Malcolm has one feature which hardly a novel written in the last thirty years has been without: a Theme of Isolation. Malcolm remembered his early travels with his father in countries whose names he could not longer recall. But this time, he was more hopelessly alone, in addition to not understanding anything around him. And at the same time he rather felt that perhaps he belonged here as much anywhere.

I do not mean to make light of this theme as a theme; it is the frivolousness with which Mr. Purdy handles it that is disturbing. Altogether, frivolousness is the major fault of the book: one can sympathize with nearly everything but the superficiality which in Mr. Purdy's hands becomes paper-thin.

A comic novel should produce laughter. And the characters invented by Mr. Purdy ought to evoke some amused response—even if the response were tinged with hysteria. But Malcolm produces no comic effect on at least one reader, despite the following characterizations: Professor Cox, an astrologer who is also a philosopher ("Those in possession of the truth are hardly ever thought well of," he says, not without prescience); Estel Blanc, an undertaker who is, despite his name, a Negro; Kermit Raphaelson, a midget painter married to a full-sized ex-prostitute (they have fifteen cats); Madame Girard, the drunken wife of a millionaire; Jerome Brace, a literary ex-convict (he has written a book about being imprisoned; it is called They Could Have Me Back); Melba, a young female singer, who is so oversexed that she kills Malcolm. And there are others. It is a gallery of grotesques—but they are grotesque in relation to nothing. This may, indeed, be what the book is about: nothing. It is not enough.
Robert J. Erickson, Librarian of the Logan County District Library in Bellefontaine, and Ohioana's Logan County Chairman, was a member of the Nominating Committee of the Ohio Library Association which held its 1959 conference in Columbus on October 8-10.

Any anniversaries in your county? What organizations, business concerns, banks, churches, lodges, etc. in your county have celebrated an anniversary by issuing an historical booklet? Please get us a copy whether it be for a current anniversary or one in the past.

Members are cordially invited to send in at any time suggestions for the recipients of Ohioana Career Medals and Ohioana Citations. Career medals are given to native Ohioans whose accomplishments in cultural fields have added national distinction to the state's heritage. Citations are given to individuals or organizations for distinguished service to Ohio.

Are the literary and cultural clubs to which you belong members of the Ohioana Library Association? If not, write to us or call us up and we will tell you how to make them members.

Mrs. John Finsterwald who was the first Ohioana Chairman for Athens County had also another distinction. She was the grandmother of Dow Finsterwald, the golf champion.

Velma Griffin of Dellroy, the Ohioana County Co-Chairman for Carroll County, has been honored by having her story "Just Like An Angel" included in Anthology of Best Short-Short Stories, edited by Robert Oberfirst and published by Frederick Fell, Inc., this year. Mrs. Griffin is a person of many talents. She teaches school, is the author of three books for boys and girls, 9-12, and spent years with Ringling Brothers and Barnum and Bailey Circus as leader of her own accordion quintette. She entertained her fellow county chairmen at a Workshop and Tea a few years ago by playing several solo numbers on her accordion.

Ohio State University's prestige as a center for professional and scholarly journals was enhanced recently by the addition of Psychological Abstracts to the list of publications edited on the campus. The University now is the editorial headquarters for at least 18 major journals.

Dr. Horace B. English, professor of psychology at Ohio State, earlier this year was appointed editor of Psychological Abstracts for a six-year term by the American Psychological Association's Council of Representatives. The publication opened editorial offices in Room 275, Arps Hall, on the campus late in June.

Published six times a year, Psychological Abstracts prints annually some 16,000 abstracts of articles and books in the field of psychology from throughout the world. Its subscribers include practicing psychologists, social workers, psychology professors, and industrial and armed forces personnel.

Other major professional journals with editorial headquarters on the University campus are listed below. The list is exclusive of various informational, as distinguished from professional and scholarly, publications and the many strictly student publications. Also not included is the regular series of O. S. U. Bulletins which includes the General Catalog and the President's Report, University Directory and the like.

Chemical Abstracts, internationally famous semi-monthly publication of the American Chemical Society. Editorial headquarters for Abstracts have been on the Ohio State campus since 1909, currently in a new half-million-dollar building, at the north edge of the campus. Dale B. Baker is director of The Chemical Abstracts Service and Dr. Charles L. Bernier is the editor of Abstracts.

The American Political Science Review, quarterly publication of the American Political Science Association. Editor is Dr. Harvey S. Mansfield, chairman of Ohio State's Department of Political Science.

The Journal of Higher Education, monthly (nine issues a year), scholarly magazine of the Ohio State University Press. Editor is Roscoe H. Eckelberry,
professor, Bureau of Educational Research and Service.

The Ohio Journal of Science, published bimonthly jointly by the University and The Ohio Academy of Science. Editor-in-chief is Henry L. Plaine, assistant professor of zoology and entomology.

Speech Monographs, quarterly research publication of the Speech Association of America. Editor is Professor John W. Black, head of the Speech and Hearing area in the Department of Speech.

Central States Speech Journal, published three times a year under the sponsorship of the Central States Speech Association for the publication of scholarly articles pertaining to the entire field of communications. Editor is Keith Brooks, assistant professor of speech and administrative assistant to the chairman of the department.

Journal of Prosthetic Dentistry, semi-monthly publication of seven national and regional dental associations primarily in the field of prosthodontia. Dr. Carl O. Boucher, professor of dentistry, has been its editor since 1951. Circulation is international, totaling 13,800.

Ohio Dental Journal, quarterly publication of the Ohio State Dental Association. Dr. Boucher also is the editor.

Ohio Retail Annalist, monthly analysis of retail sales published by the University's Bureau of Business Research. Editor is Professor James C. Yocum, administrative assistant to the chairman of the department.

Ohioana: Ohio and Ohioans

search. Editor is Dr. Viva B. Boothe, director of the Bureau. Circulation again is primarily in Ohio but copies go also throughout the world.

Ohio Certified Public Accountant, official quarterly of the Ohio Society of Certified Public Accountants. Editor is Dean James R. McCoy of the College of Commerce and Administration, who will be succeeded this Autumn by Richard V. Northrup, associate professor of accounting.

News in Engineering, published quarterly by The Ohio State University Engineering Experiment Station. Editor is Chester E. Ball, assistant professor and editor of publications. Circulation of 3,500 is world wide.

Engineering Experiment Station Bulletin, published six times annually and containing detailed results of engineering research. Editor also is Chester E. Ball.

Educational Research Bulletin, published nine times yearly by the Bureau of Research and Service for the schools of Ohio. Editor is Professor Roscoe H. Eckelberry, of the Bureau.

Graduate School Record, quarterly publication of the Graduate School. Editor is Dean Everett Walters.

Ohio State Law Journal, quarterly publication of the College of Law. Student editors elected semi-annually.

Archiv für Reformationsgeschichte, a semi-annual international journal, concerned with the history of the Reformation. Published under the auspices of the American Society for Reformation Research and the Verein für Reformationsgeschichte. The American editor is Prof. Harold J. Grimm, Chairman of the Department of History at Ohio State University.

THE LATEST BOOKS
Part I: by Ohio Authors

Published either (1) in late 1958 and not listed in OHIO AUTHORS AND COMPOSERS—1958 or (2) in 1959, or (3) announced for early publication. Exclusive of books on Ohio subjects listed in Part II: THE OHIO SCENE.

BRENNAN, LOUIS A. ....................................................................................................... Scioto Co.

NO STONE UNTURNED. Random. A history covering some 40,000 years on the North American continent from the days of the mammoth to the mound builders.

BROWN, FREDRIC ....................................................................................................... Hamilton Co.

KNOCK THREE-ONE-TWO. Doubleday. The activities of Roy Fleck, a liquor salesman, and "The Psycho," the rapist strangler, set off a chain of events that turned a night into a nightmare of fear and death as their paths crossed.

CHRISTENSON, REO M. ............................................................................................... Butler Co.

THE BRANNAN PLAN: FARM POLITICS AND POLICY. Univ. of Mich. Pr. An appraisal of the Brannan Plan, its economic and political consequences, and its potential value. Dr. Christenson is a professor in the Department of Government, Miami University.

CRAMER, ARLYN B. ....................................................................................................... Summit Co.

TEMPEST IN THE HILLS. Doubleday. A humorous novel of a debutante whose imagination turns her into a suspect in a murder.

CULLEN, MRS. DOROTHEA ......................................................................................... Clark Co.

(Under pseudonym of SYDNEY BEAL NYE)

WHETSTONES AND WHEATSTONES. Cassow Pr. (Dexter, Mo.) Among the 143 poems a number are of the Ohio scene. Mrs. Cullen is a resident of Springfield.

DE LEEUW, ADELE and DE LEEUW, CATEAU ................................................................. Butler Co.

WHERE VALOR LIES. Doubleday. The exciting experience of a young apprentice boy who joined the Crusade of King Louis IX, the Seventh Crusade, in the 13th century. The authors have departed from straight juvenile fiction to narrate the drama of a great historical movement. Ages 11-14.

ERSKINE, DOROTHY .................................................................................................... Jefferson Co.

DR. SMITH AND THE ANTI ASSEMBLY. Putnam. A humorous novel of a debutante assembly in Baltimore when the family of the debutante is thrown into a slight panic as the party turns into a charity drive.

FAULKNER, LEONARD ............................................................................................... Cuyahoga Co.

FORGE OF LIBERTY. Doubleday. The dramatic opening of the American Revolution in the spring and summer of 1775 is reconstructed here from source material available in letters, diaries and documents of the period. Mr. Faulkner is an author and feature editor of the New York World-Telegram & Sun.

GOOD, CARTER V. ....................................................................................................... Hamilton Co.

DICTIONARY OF EDUCATION. McGraw. Prepared under the auspices of Phi Delta Kappa, and with the assistance of Winifred R. Merkel, it is concerned with technical and professional terms and concepts in the entire area of education.
LOCKE, CHARLES O. ..............................................................Seneca Co.
KRONENBERGER, LOUIS (Ed.) ...................................................Hamilton Co.
KINSEY, RALPH L. .........................................................
JAUCHIUS, DEAN ........................................................................................................ Franklin Co.
KENDALL, CAROL ................................................................................ Crawford
HILLES, FREDERICK W. ..........................................................Summit Co.
HARROD, KATHRYN E .................................................................................Franklin Co.
COAL CAMP GIRL. ..........................................................Clark Co.

HAZEL, CHARLES O. .............................................................. Seneca Co.
AMELIA RANKIN. Norton. Story of a widow, in her thirties, who is left with vast Texas ranch holdings that bring her problems as well as power. Mr. Locke was an Ohioana Award Winner of 1959 for THE HELL BENT KID.

* Indicates the author is not an Ohioan.
THE LATEST BOOKS
Part II: The Ohio Scene

Published either (1) in late 1938 and not listed in OHIO AUTHORS AND COMPOSERS —1938 or (2) in 1959, or announced for early publication.

BOCKELMAN, WILFRED
ON GOOD SOIL. Friendship Pr. The problems and opportunities of the Christian community in rural North America. Three chapters concern Ohio churches. "They Did It in Dublin, Too" is a most interesting chapter. Dr. Bockelman is Associate-Editor of The Lutheran Standard.

BONNOT, JULIA M. and Others

BURTON, KATHERINE

CADDY, EDWIN H*
* Indicates the author is not an Ohioan.

ROSÉ, ELINOR K......................................................... Williams Co.
SUGAR AND SPICE. The Five Oaks Pr. Every bit of life is fodder for the author's sparkling wit. RELAX, CHUM, an earlier book was published in 1954. The author now lives in Royal Oak, Michigan.

SCHEELE, WILLIAM E. ............................................... Cuyahoga Co.
THE CAVE HUNTERS. World. What happened when the Cro-Magnons, our ancestors, took over the caves held by the Neanderthals? Illustrated by the author. Ages 8-12.

SCHWARTZ, ELIZABETH (and Schwartz, Charles*) ........................................... Franklin Co.

SIPLE, PAUL. ............................................................... Williams Co.
90° SOUTH. Putnam. The story of the American South Pole Expedition. Illustrated with photographs and maps.

STINSON, SHEILA ...................................................... Highland & Hamilton Cos.
WARMTH FOR HEART'S WINTER. A Tularia Publication. Poems of human experience. Many have appeared in other publications, among them The Columbus Dispatch.

THOMAS, LOWELL ..................................................... Darke Co.
THE BOYS' LIFE OF COLONEL LAWRENCE. Rev. Lowell Thomas describes the military genius, courage, and leadership of the young commander, T. E. Lawrence, who helped free the Arabs from Turkish rule. Illustrated with photographs. Ages 12 up.

TURNER, G. ALAN .................................................... Franklin Co.
CREATIVE CRAFTS FOR EVERYONE. Viking. Ideas for making attractive articles of paper, fabric, wood, leather, plastics and metal. The author has selected projects that would interest teachers, homemakers, young people and others.

TURNER, GERRY ....................................................... Franklin Co.

VANCE, MARGUERITE .............................................. Cuyahoga Co.
ASHES OF EMPIRE. Dutton. One of the tragic stories of modern history was the reign of the young Carlota and Maximilian in Mexico, and the European intrigue and treachery of which they were the victims, in the middle of the 19th century. Ages 13 up.

WALDRON, D'LYNN .................................................. Cuyahoga Co.
FURTHER THAN AT HOME. Harper. To fulfill a childhood dream to visit faraway places, the author, a twenty-year-old Ohio girl, sailed alone from California for the Orient in the fall of 1957. Her travels have a surprising, fairy-tale ending. Illus. by the author.

WEBB, LANCE ....................................................... Franklin Co.
POINT OF GLAD RETURN: CONFRONTING CHRIST IN YOUR LIFE. Abingdon. The victory faith in Christ brings over the frustrations and frailties of human life. Announced for January.

WESLEY, CHARLES H. (& Woodson, C. G.*) ................................................ Greene Co.
THE STORY OF THE NEGRO RETOLD. The Assoc. Pubs. 4th edition revised and enlarged. The author is the President of Central State College at Wilberforce.
* Indicates the author is not an Ohioan.
IN THE NAME OF THE PEOPLE
Speeches and Writings of Lincoln and Douglas in the Ohio Campaign of 1859
Edited by Harry V. Jaffa and Robert W. Johannsen
320 pp. Preface and Introduction $5.00

THOMAS WORTHINGTON
Father of Ohio Statehood
By Alfred B. Sears
Winner of an Award of Merit from the American Association for State and Local History, and of an Ohioana Book Award, 1959
248 pp. $5.50
Both published for the Ohio Historical Society by
THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY PRESS
Columbus 10