

# Among the Authors

By Carolyn Coggins

**W**HEN his novel, "Lord Hornblower" came out recently, C. S. Forster reported receiving his finest compliment. A British naval captain in World War II was in a spot. His ship had been torpedoed, disabled and was being bombed by Stukas. "I wonder," said the desperate officer, "what Hornblower would do now?"

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## Margery Sharp Proves Just as We Expected

**I**F LAST year is remembered as the year of lush literary parties, 1946 will be recalled as the one in which there were too many books and in which the parties got back to normal size—to be enjoyed instead of marveled at.

It can also be put down that in 1946 Margery Sharp came back for a visit. Amusing and delightful, she is the kind of person one would expect her to be after reading "Cluny Brown." It was in that story, remember, that one of her characters, Belinski, was describing luxuries he could do without. One was "the luxury of being always with the well-bred, with people who give way, who consider one's pride, are delicate, till one no longer has need of one's weapons and throws them away."

Meeting Miss Sharp at the party given for her at the Ritz, one sees how typical of her this is, for she is discerning, amused and rather appallingly quick.

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## It Was a Year Of Anthologies

**C**ERTAINLY this is a time of anthologies. Charles Lee, a Philadelphia critic, recently turned out a neat one in "The Twin Bedside Anthology." One is "Her Reader," the other, "His Reader." Both are thin, easily held and engagingly introduced by Lee. They are in a slip case together. Since "Her Reader" includes Jessamyn West, Ogden Nash and Cornelia Otis Skinner, three musts for this woman, she approves.

Joe Margolies, the black-moustached gentleman who could double for Groucho Marx, but who has spent his adult life with Brentano's, has collected "Strange and Fantastic Stories."

Two book salesmen on the West Coast who have been attracted to science literature for years have selected 36 nonfiction stories of the future world of atomic power, rockets and the like in their "Adventures in Time and Space." They are Raymond J. Healy and J. Francis McComas.

Rose Dobbs, long-time publishers' editor, who has a new book of her own, "The Discontented Village," also edited the "Elizabeth Goudge Reader," for the several million fans of "Green Dolphin Street." In it are selections from the Elizabeth Goudge novels and 10 of Miss Goudge's best-known short stories as well as two new ones.

Then there is "Selected Writings of Gertrude Stein," which Carl Van Vechten edited. In it is a little of almost everything she wrote. . . . A book important to people who like Americana is "The Selected Writings of John and John Quincy Adams."



Gertrude Stein, Adrienne Koch and William Peden, the editors, worked for a broad cross-section of the ideas of the two Presidents. . . . These are only a few of the many books recently assembled by means of scissors and pastepot and held together by an introduction.

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## Capt. Zacharias On the Japanese

**Q**UITE a different view of the Japanese is presented in the story by Capt. Ellis M. Zacharias in his "Secret Missions." Capt. Zacharias retired from the Navy November 1 with the rank of rear admiral. Between wartime sea commands he was made deputy director of naval intelligence in Washington and became known

to the world through his broadcasts to the Japs in their own language.

How he became eloquent in that language is one of those true stories "stranger than fiction."

In 1920 he was sent out to Japan. There he became friendly with three young Japanese destined to become conspicuous 20 years later. One was Nomura, who was Ambassador to Washington at the time of Pearl Harbor. The second was Yonai, who, as Premier, said he would never sign the Axis pact and so fell to a successor, who signed; Yonai was Minister of the Japanese Navy at the time of surrender. The third was Admiral Suzuki. In their youth and on a lower level of rank, these men were close friends of young Lt. Comdr. Zacharias 26 years ago in Japan.

At that time he wanted to speak Japanese. He learned it by doing exactly what he had done as a boy, only instead of making noises like a steamboat, he made noises like a Japanese. Since so much in the language depends upon tone, the method was appropriate. He soon spoke Japanese like a native.



Those years spent in Japan brought him an experience in 1931 which was also to be valuable later. Ten years before Pearl Harbor Prince and Princess Takamatsu, second brother of the Emperor, visited the United States and Capt. Zacharias escorted them on a two months' tour. Their names were used in the first of the 14 broadcasts in Japanese made by Zacharias in 1945. These went out by short-wave from San Francisco and Honolulu where, as our naval intelligence knew, messages would be picked up by the monitoring stations and made to reach an audience of about 500 Japs of top importance. And from Saipan these talks were sent out on medium-wave aimed at the 5,000,000 sets owned by the Japanese people.

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## Harnett Kane Writes His First Novel

**I**T APPEARS that this time Harnett T. Kane has hit the jackpot. This rising young author (he's only 35) has five books to his credit. The fifth and currently booming volume is his first novel.

With an advance printing of 50,000 copies this book, "New Orleans Woman," Mr. Kane's publishers don't seem to be gambling unreasonably.

For 17,500 copies were sold in Louisiana alone within three days, and the Army and Navy are taking another 25,000 copies for men overseas.

Mr. Kane figures this novelized biography of the beautiful Myra Clark Gaines is the best thing he's turned out so far. There are lots of others who agree with him, including assorted movie moguls who are reported to be fiercely maneuvering for motion picture rights.

Besides all that, the reviews have been excellent. Therefore, it doesn't seem surprising that the whirlwind author is thinking seriously about another novel.

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## Christine Weston And the Guild

**W**HAT Christine Weston had done in India, she found she could do in Maine, that is, produce a novel which had an appeal sufficiently popular for the Literary Guild to select it, as they had selected "Indigo" three years ago. "The Dark Wood," the Maine book, was snapped up by 20th-Century-Fox for a minimum of \$125,000 and a contract that may mean increases to \$210,000.

There is still time to read these books yourself and see what Grand Christmas Gifts they'll make



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