

Foreign Literature

Georg Brandes

UIMODSTAAELIGE (Not to be Resisted).
By GEORG BRANDES. Copenhagen, Gylden-
dal. 1924.

Reviewed by Julius Moritzen

AT the age of eighty-three, the noted Danish critic adds one more work to his long list of books on European life and letters which, with the death of Anatole France, unquestionably establishes Georg Brandes as the sole surviving member of a school that has influenced modern literature far beyond the indications of the present day. In the instance of his latest work which, as he writes, is a "plunge into the France of the eighteenth century, its joy in living, its levity," Brandes returns to that delightful style which blends so fittingly with his subject matter. Here he presents some of those characters whom history takes care of politically. It has been left for Georg Brandes, however, to treat them in a lighter vein, to give emotion free rein, to expose to the light of day some of those affairs of the heart that made of the eighteenth century in France one vast pleasure ground, though the guillotine ran red with blood as the aristocracy went to the block with undisturbed mien and uncomplaining.

No one word in the English language can adequately care for the title of this book, though the nearest approach would be "Irresistibles": those not to be resisted. Among those whom Brandes would place in the front rank among the irresistible of the France of that day are Moritz of Saxony, Richelieu, and Armand Louis de Gontaut-Biron, Duke of Lauzun. It is, in fact, the latter who concerns Brandes chiefly, since of the 148 pages of the book more than a hundred are devoted to the life and *amours* of this Lauzun who was a friend of Washington and who at the close of his military experiences under the great liberator wrote his memoirs. They were the chief sources from which Brandes drew the captivating material that went into the narrative telling of the erotic exploits of the man before whom all women bowed low, and whose favors were considered the greatest to be obtained.

Brandes is of the opinion that the woman who occupied him more than any other of the sex was the Marquise of Coigny, and that apparently it was for the purpose of interesting her with revelations of his eventful career that he penned these memoirs. But curiously enough, nothing is said in these recollections of his relations with the marquise. They treat of the period from Lauzun's birth in 1747 until 1783. Consequently Aimée de Coigny has not as yet crossed his path sufficiently for inclusion here.

Brandes takes issues with Edmond de Goncourt for the latter's literary treatment of Lauzun in his relations with Marie Antoinette. The Danish critic insists that the queen's confidence in Lauzun remained unshaken, and that in spite of what was done to inspire distrust, Marie Antoinette had warm feelings for the handsome young man who stood in such a striking contrast to the dull Dauphin, to whom she was married when only fourteen.

All together, says Brandes, some 39 women interested Lauzun during the 36 years covering his memoirs. But this, says the critic, should not be considered an exceptionally long list since "many a man who was not considered irresistible, and who never was a woman-hunter can show a larger number." He mentions Richelieu, who at the age of 92 still proved fascinating to the gentler sex, but in contrast to Richelieu, adds Brandes, Lauzun had something really romantic in his sentimental experiences.

Next to the Marquise de Coigny it was the Princess Czartoryska who, at first treating his advances with chilly indifference, finally fell captive to the ardent Frenchman. Only a Brandes it would seem, is able to treat of these episodes as logically correct when considering the mental atmosphere surrounding the aristocracy of eighteenth-century France. Nearing his eighty-fourth year the Danish writer still possesses that intense energy for literary expression which a few years ago found an outlet with his "Michelangelo." In his case the style is very largely the man, but his ability to enter the past and drag from the dusty archives new and fascinating things, as in the instance of his latest work, has seldom been equalled and must perforce continue to write the name of Georg Brandes in large and glittering letters on the European horizon of literature.

Foreign Notes

A VOLUME that should prove of large value to students of seventeenth century France has just been issued by Hippolyte Roy under the title, "La Vie, La Mode, et la Costume au XVIIe Siecle, Epoque Louis XIII." (Paris: Champion.) M. Roy has gone to the archives and chronicles of the court of Lorraine for his material, and has neglected no details of the processes and incidentals of the elaborate costume of the period. His narrative takes up textiles, jewelry, perfumery and all that went into the wardrobe of the time. It is a valuable note upon the history of the century.

That the Byron centennial should have called forth volumes in the foreign countries in which the poet has so long held a place of importance as well as in England, was but natural, and it was likewise to be expected that some of these publications should be of considerable interest. A work that is well worth the reading not long since made its appearance from the pen of Arturo Farinelli. His "Byron e il Byronismo" (Bologna: Zanichelli) is a careful and well-proportioned work, which views the poet with more detachment than most of the criticism of his own country has been able to achieve.

General Suchomlinov's "Erinnerungen" (Berlin: Hobbing), which have appeared in German in advance of their publication in Russian, contain much material of interest to the historian in their comment on Russian military and political affairs during the period of their author's public service. The book, as a matter of fact, covers the entire life of the Russian Minister of War of 1914, but its importance lies in the matter relating to opening period of the Great War, its discussion of reforms in the Russian Army between the close of Russo-Japanese War and 1914, and its account of the Franco-Russian protocols of 1911, 1912 and 1913, which are reprinted verbatim.

M. Henry Cochin, the French Italian scholar, is engaged at present in preparing for publication the correspondence of his father, which extends over a period of nearly thirty years (1843-1872.) "It will interest Americans, I think," Mr. Cochin writes to a friend in this country, "for my father was a great admirer of the United States where he had several acquaintances."

A French novelist of considerable promise has made his appearance in France with the publication of Bernard Barbey's "Le Coeur Gros" (Paris: Grasset). His book is a psychological tale, worked out with considerable subtlety and understanding and displaying a good sense of dramatic values.

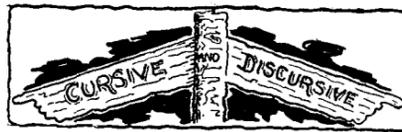
A book which art libraries and students of art should be glad to welcome has recently appeared in Enrico Somare's "Masaccio" (Milan: Bottega di Poesia). The volume contains an interesting essay on the artist and his work, and a comprehensive presentation of the little contemporary documentary material upon him which exists. It is lavishly illustrated.

A reader writes asking the origin of the lines:

O for a Booke and a shadie nooke,
eyther in-a-dooore or out;
With the grene leaves whisp'ring overhede,
or the Streete cries all about.
Where I maie Reade all at my ease,
both of the Newe and Olde;
For a jollie goode Booke whereon to looke,
is better to me than Golde.

It appears that they first appeared in Alexander Ireland's "Book Lover's Enchiridion," 1883, credited to "Old English Songe." The late John Wilson, a London bookseller, told the late Austin Dobson, the English poet, that he wrote the octave as a motto for one of his second-hand book catalogues. Mr. Dobson, who was curious as to the origin of the lines, said that "Mr. Wilson was one of the elder race of booksellers, who, like the late Bertram Dobell of Charing Cross Road, loved books almost too well to sell them. He was an intelligent man, very well read; and I fully believed him."

A Byron exhibition at the Grolier Club of first editions and manuscripts, in commemoration of the one-hundredth anniversary of the poet's death, beginning December 19 and ending January 10, has attracted a great deal of attention, interest steadily growing from the first day to the last.



NEW YORKERS may consider Newark quite out of the world, but a certain showing of miniature books at the Newark Public Library, which is held under the auspices of The Carteret Book Club of Newark and will not be over until January 17th, seems to us of especial interest. Wilbur Macey Stone sends us his brochure about it. W. M. S. is the happy possessor of many enchanting miniature books. If you will climb to the third floor of the Newark Public Library you will see a unique exhibition of the diminutive. As Mr. Stone says the diminutive has always had its especial place. "The Kyloe cow and the Shetland pony were beloved by our ancestors and the toy dog is a favorite today." Even so with books.

Mr. Stone goes on to tell us that some of the most beautiful manuscript volumes of the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries are not above three inches in height. "In the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries wee books appeared like flocks of butterflies." And so forth. Mr. Stone's collection is representative of the art of the miniature book for the past four and a half centuries.

"The smallest type ever made," we learn, "is called 'fly's eye' and is two points high." There is an edition of Dante's Divine Comedy containing five hundred pages in this minute type. You will find an interesting collection of miniature Bibles in several languages in the exhibition, and the bindings of the tiny volumes are of especial interest.

When we set that English egg poem rolling, we started something. The latest additional impetus is given it by G. B. Birrell of Hyattsville, Maryland. He writes:

You celebrate a deathless egg
But my demure muse is content
With one—not quite that old, I beg—
Fried on both sides. Oh Excellent!
You praise or dispraise its austere
Aloofness from the faults of flesh;
I only know—that they are dear,
This winter, if they're strictly fresh!

There is a series of Feast Day celebrations called The Poets' Calendar which will run the first week of every month, beginning with January, from half-past three until six o'clock at Christadora House, 147 Avenue B, between 9th and 10th Streets. This series is arranged by the distinguished American poet, Anna Hempstead Branch. The number of guests is limited to thirty each day. Therefore you are urged to write in advance if you wish to attend, enclosing one dollar for a card of admission on a specified date. On each occasion some writer of distinction will be the guest of honor and will read from his own works. To get to Christadora House you take either the 8th Street Crosstown or the 10th Street Ferry car and get off at Avenue B.

Zane Grey, whose new novel "The Thun-

dering Herd" is just out, started, the second week in December, with cowboys, wild horse hunters, and Indians, on a great deer drive through the Grand Canyon. The party expected to drive five or ten thousand deer from the north rim down the Canyon, across the Colorado River and up the south side. News of just how many emerged has not reached us. Mr. Grey's new book, however, does not concern deer herds but, on the other hand, herds of bison, and tells the story of the destruction of the buffalo that once darkened the western plains.

For book publication Sinclair Lewis has telescoped the magazine title of his new novel simply to "Arrowsmith." The amount of material in it would furnish forth a dozen ordinary novels. The cast of characters is bulky, there are characters drawn from medical schools, Dakota wheat-fields, middle western cities, laboratories, the West Indies, and from New York society. Lewis has gone in for quantity production! March 5th is the date on which you should stand in line for your copy of the book.

This Spring two new books by Virginia Woolf will be published in America, the first a novel, "Mrs. Dalloway," the second a volume of essays entitled, "The Common Reader." Virginia Woolf is the daughter of Leslie Stephen. She began with reviewing and critical work, and *Clive Bell*, for one, thinks her critical essays ought to be collected. As to her stories the same critic believes "The Mark on the Wall" "perfect of its kind." But "Jacob's Room" is the remarkable novel most of us will remember, of unusual elliptical brilliance.

Have you read the journal of the author of "Maria Chapdelaine"? William Aspenwall Bradley has translated it under the title "The Journal of Louis Hémon." It records a sensitive Frenchman's impressions on visiting for the first time the lost province of Quebec. The notes for the book were jotted down when Hémon was gathering material for his novel.

Number 32 West 8th Street has not been a bar for a long time, but now it is a book-shop. Among the ghosts of bottles has been reared "The Sign of the Unicorn." *Mistress Frances Midner* is the literary barmaid. Gay's "Fables" ensconce themselves where the pretzels were. And then, up at 12 West 47th Street, *Stanley Nott* has a new shop of first editions and prints, his window being lately adorned by one of those incomparable toy theatres from the shop in London where R. L. S. bought "Penny Plain and Tuppence Coloured." And yet again, the permanent trace of the artists and workmen under *Norman Bel-Geddes*, who created the scenic effects in "The Miracle" is to remain in the new Coffee House of *Alice Foote MacDougall*, also on West 47th Street just off Fifth Avenue. This haunt, "The Piazzetta," was opened on New Year's Eve. It is something quite different from anything you have ever encountered.

by the author of
The Great Desire

ALEXANDER BLACK

Stacey

The frankly told story of
a lovable blunderer in a
world that sometimes
seems to be full of women.

Bobbs-Merrill**Price \$2.00****All Booksellers**

Announcement

During the late winter and the early spring the House of Putnam offers a list of books remarkable for its variety and quality, not alone on the side of literary excellence and interest, but also on the mechanical side—in the mere business of making handsome books. Last year's list included such beauties as *GALAPAGOS* by William Beebe and *VOYAGING* by Rockwell Kent. There are many gems in the new list.

On the side of Biography and Memoirs there will be *WITH PEN AND BRUSH AND CHISEL* by Emil Fuchs, a book which embraces the memories of an artist the list of whose friends reads like a union of Who's Who, and *The Almanac de Gotha*; *LIVES AND TIMES* by Meade Minnigerode, author of the enchanting and ridiculous *FABULOUS FORTIES*, which contains four studies of characters out of postcolonial days: *Theodosia Burr*, *William Eaton*, *Citizen Genet* and *Stephen Jumel*; *A KING IN THE MAKING* by Genevieve Parkhurst which is a biographical study of the gentleman who recently paid us a visit as *Baron Renfrew*; and *THE ROAR OF THE CROWD* by James J. Corbett, former heavyweight champion of the prize ring and known widely as "Gentleman Jim."



There is also a biography of *IRVING BERLIN*, "King of Jazz," by his most sincere admirer *Alexander Woolcott*; a sprightly study of *SAMUEL PEPYS* (the unexpurgated) by *Lucas-Dubreton* who writes of the master diarist from a point of view spicily Gallic; and *THE HUMAN TOUCH*, a reflective and philosophic book by *Lyman Powell* dealing with lives and times of today. (These are a few)

In the realm of belles lettres *Sir Arthur Quiller-Couch* contributes his new book *ADVENTURES IN CRITICISM*, and His Excellency *Jules J. Jusserand*, one called *A SCHOOL FOR AMBASSADORS*.

In the famous Loeb Classical Library the *Benjamin Bickley Rogers* translation of *ARISTOPHANES* is offered for the first time in a popularly priced edition.

The list of Travel and Natural History includes *MY JUNGLE*, a new book by *William Beebe*, dealing with his adventures in science and exploration in South America and a fascinating book on the western coast of South America called *BIRD ISLANDS OF PERU* by *R. C. Murphy*, one of the greatest living ornithologists.



Hilaire Belloc is the author of a new *SHORT HISTORY OF ENGLAND* in four volumes, the first of which will be issued in the spring, and *George MacAdam*, well-known newspaper man, has contributed a charming history of *THE LITTLE CHURCH AROUND THE CORNER*.

On the fiction side there is *NUMEROUS TREASURE*, a new book by *Robert Keable*; *BACKFURROW*, a remarkable first novel by *G. E. Eaton*, a translation by *Lewis Galantieri* of *Jean Cocteau's LE GRAND ECART* and a dozen other good ones.

It is an interesting and varied list including something for every taste and a great many books that will please almost everybody. Keep them in mind in planning your reading for the spring.

G. P. PUTNAM'S SONS
TWO WEST 45th ST. - NEW YORK

The New Books

The books listed by title only in the classified list below are noted here as received. Many of them will be reviewed later.

Art

- LANDSCAPE PAINTING. By *C. Lewis Hind*. Scribners. \$8.50.
TOLSTOY ON ART. By *Aylmer Maude*. Small Maynard. \$5 net.
A HISTORY OF ARCHITECTURE. By *Sir Banister Fletcher*. Seventh Edition. Scribners. \$12.

Belles Lettres

MEN AND ISSUES. By *GEORGE WHARTON PEPPER*. Duffield. 1924. \$2.50.
A wide field of subjects is included in this selection of the Senior Pennsylvania Senator's speeches and articles. They range from his most significant official utterances during issues of vital and timely import on the floor of the Senate to memorial tributes in commemoration of the great historic dead, and addresses delivered before patriotic, commercial, press, and educational bodies. The prevailing note in all of them is of a clear thinking and rugged uprightness, a single devotion to the broadest interests of the country's welfare, a virile reverence for the traditions of liberty and rectitude established by our forefathers. The Senator's faculty for stating his ideas is vigorously forceful, direct, penetrating. He seems to possess in abundance the qualities of an able lawyer and of a broadly cultured scholar.

LITERARY VESPER. By *Edgar White Burrill*. Duffield. \$2 net.

RED. By *Carl Van Vechten*. Knopf. \$2.50 net.

Biography

- A GALLERY. By *Philip Guedalla*. Putnam.
GUY PATIN. By *Francis R. Packard*. Hoeber. \$4.
LIFE OF WILLIAM CONGREVE. By *Edmund Gosse*. Scribners. \$2.25.
BYRON. By *Ethel Colburn Mayne*. Scribners. \$5.

Drama

- REPRESENTATIVE PLAYS by *Henry Arthur Jones*. Edited by *Clayton Hamilton*. Little, Brown. 4 vols. \$2.50 net each.
THE FLATTERING WORD. By *George Kelly*. Little, Brown. \$1.50 net.
MIMICK. By *Edna Ferber and George S. Kaufman*. Doubleday, Page. \$2 net.

Fiction

INNOCENT DESIRES. By *E. L. GRANT WATSON*. Boni & Liveright. 1924. \$2.

A quotation on title page, ("Innocent desires are those which can be satisfied with a good conscience"), and a sentence from the publisher's advertisement on the cover of the book, ("In Mr. Grant Watson's remarkable stories there are illustrations in human dramas of his belief that there is no conscious sin,—and where there is no conscious sin there is innocence"), invite the reviewer to consider this collection of Mr. Watson's stories from a moral as well as an æsthetic point of view. This is too bad, for from any judge of their ethical soundness, excepting only the romantic individualist, the verdict must be an unfavorable one. With few exceptions these stories are accounts of the indulgence of animal instinct or romantic impulse at the expense of decent feeling and good sense and in violation of the fundamental principles of the great traditional systems of morality. An elderly Englishman deserts his family, eloping with a hotel chambermaid to tropical islands,—*"The Case of Sir Reginald James Farquarson"*; a young Englishman of the middle-class tradition is reconciled to an Australian negress who has murdered his white wife,—*"Out There"*; a desirable young wife gives in to the mild importunities of a Chinese merchant after her husband has attempted, in a fit of jealousy, to murder the merchant's friend, with whom she had come to an understanding,—*"White and Yellow"*; *et al.* These and other facile surrenders to sexual impulse are accomplished, it would appear, "with a good conscience." Therefore, there is "no conscious sin"? Or could this have been the author's intended "moral" lesson, as the publisher's advertisement and the author's quotation on the title page suggest?

If there had not been this suggestion of moral intention, if the stories had been offered simply as stories, they would have

had much to recommend them. They are of the type that used to be called "strong" or "powerful"; but even now, when these adjectives and the kind of narrative that used to be so described begin to "date," there is a vigor in Mr. Grant's writing, as compared with other writing of the same romantic school, which is impressive and genuine. His inversion of the moral code of healthy civilization is not impressive, to be sure. His vigor and skill do not appear in his ability to do a moral hand-stand. All the second-raters and the third-raters have learned how to do that for the astonishment of the multitude. Mr. Grant, in spite of his immoral premises and his typically sensational subject matter, not because of them, has written in this account of "Innocent Desires" a number of stories that bring alive with marked professional ability uncivilized persons and persons afflicted with what Mr. Santayana has called "the corrupt desire to be primitive." Why was not the book frankly named "Corrupt Desires" so that it might have been judged simply on the grounds of the true, and not on the grounds of the good and the beautiful?

ENTRANCED. By *GRACE FLANDRAU*. Harcourt, Brace. 1924. \$2.

There is little in this book that will appeal to the popular reader, and nothing whatever that will halt the intelligent book lover. The reader of any taste at all will find himself both bored and annoyed—bored by the lack of motive in the book and annoyed by the hysterical manner in which it is written. Miss Flaudrau waxes enthusiastic over nothing and writes exclaimingly and melodramatically about trifles.

The story is of *Rita and Dick Malory*, a brother and sister reunited after many years of estrangement, the event bringing them together being Dick's marriage into St. Paul society. Dick is conceited and ambitious, and he wants a place in the world at any price. His wife's father makes him a partner in his business; and shortly after this *Rita* fortuitously falls in love with and marries the brother of Dick's wife, and thus they both break into society. Trouble ensues when Dick, overly ambitious and underly scrupulous, engages in some high finance and loses heavily with the firm's money. He repents and sees that he was only entranced with himself.

The characters pass before you without leaving an impression. For the rest, there is talk of society and gowns and teas.

LA ROUX. By *JOHNSTON ABBOTT*. Macmillan. 1924. \$2.25.

There is first rate material here for a romantic historical novel, and Mr. Abbott has managed the machinery, the movement of it, very well. His background, local color, of the "New France" of 1641 and the following years is also pleasing: satisfyingly descriptive and carefully free of anachronisms and false notes. But as a tale of romantic adventure he seems to have refrained, on purpose, from breathing any breath of life into it. He is so anxious to avoid the high-flying either in sentiment or diction that his tale is reduced to a bare chronicle. The character drawing is all schematic: hard outlines, as if done from a mannikin, with no real vitality. The exasperating thing about it is that one feels that he might have made a good thing of it, if he had been willing to let himself go a bit. The narrative records the wanderings of a young lady who has come all the way from France to find a man whom she knows to have been a victim of her ancestor's dishonesty, in order that she may restore his property to him. Of course, she falls in with the hero, in complete disguise, and enlists him in the search for himself. Equally, of course, he falls in love with her, and does not wish to be found and thus deprive her of the fortune. There are Indians, some fighting, hairbreadth escapes, etc., and there is a suitable fiendish villain. But it is all about as exciting as a demonstration of a proposition in Euclid.

THE SMOKING FLAX. By *ROBERT STEAD*. 1924. Doran. \$2.

Lovers are not the only ones to murmur "sweet nothings." Some authors can write sentimental romances with a delicacy of touch and luminosity of phrase which make them betrayingly easy to read. They are like pastries on which one becomes surfeited before he realizes that he has had no nourishment.

(Continued on next page)

Dutton's NEW FICTION



A savage satire by
EUGENE ZAMIATIN

on attempts to reduce life and personality to theoretical formulas. Its style, impressionistic, almost cubistic, gives it a unique and individual value. One reads with mingled horror and laughter of the methodical mathematical rule bent on producing a machine-made happiness. \$2.00

REAMER LOU

BY **LOUIS FORGIONE**

A view of life as seen by a common workingman, who frankly tells what he thinks and naturally some of the things he says are startling. Reamer Lou is no angel but just a rough and ready laborer willing to wallop any man who steps on his toes. You see him in this book on ships, in repair yards, in squalid boarding houses, striking up friendships, loving, hating and bungling along as best he can. What he writes may not be a novel—it defies all the set rules for novels—but it is life itself, and the life of a class usually inarticulate. In press

THE ROAD TO EN-DOR

BY **LOUIS JOSEPH VANCE**

Author of "The Lone Wolf Returns," "Baroque," etc.

Vivid, thrilling, swift-moving, passionate melodrama, in a vein of which the author is master. It holds one's interest from the beginning to the end.

Ready late in Jan.

VAL SINESTRA

BY **MARTHA MORTON**

A first novel of unusual caliber by a successful playwright who combines vivid characterization, swift movement and an undercurrent of intrinsic nobility and interest with keen penetration into the contradictions produced by conflicting inherited tendencies. \$2.00

Not to be overlooked

THOMAS THE LAMBKIN

BY **CLAUDE FARRÈRE**

Author of "The House of the Secret."

The verdict runs from coast to coast: "One of the most stirring tales of corsairs we have ever read—a powerful full-blooded tale." (N. Y. Evening Post).

"A most unusual pirate story... an engrossing tale." (Argonaut) \$2.00

And for refreshment of spirit the deliciously funny

WHEN WE WERE VERY YOUNG

By **A. A. MILNE**

With 130 drawings by E. Shepard. \$2.00 at any bookstore

E. P. DUTTON & COMPANY
681 Fifth Ave., New York

Opp. St. Thomas's, near 54th St.