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By

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## The Phoenix Nest

AS we write this we are learning what humidity really is. We shall never take its name in vain again. It's not so much the humidity as it is the saturation point. Whuff! . . .

The amiable and interesting *Wilbur Macey Stone* comes to our rescue with a letter. It is anent that *Angela Brazil* we mentioned lately as one of the favorite contemporary writers-for-girls in England. Mr. Stone. . . .

It may interest or mildly amuse you to know that there is at least one citizen of the great and more or less inglorious republic who has not only heard of *Angela Brazil* (vide *Sat. Rev.* July 31, p. 16, top of col. 3) but has actually corresponded with her! There now lies before me a four page circular received from Miss Brazil (and this is her honest-to-goodness name) in 1922, listing 21 volumes of her work plus one title added in *ms!* The front page carries a half tone portrait headed "The Schoolgirl's Favorite Authoress." Some years ago I had occasion to write to the Historical Society of Coventry, England, for some information and my reply was signed "Angela Brazil Hon. Secty." Her work is issued in this country by Fred. Stokes & Co.

Also our famulus has been busy collecting a little lit'ry dope for us. Said famulus has gleaned the following. . . .

That *William McFee* has finished a new novel, "Pilgrims of Adversity," and is going abroad to collect material for a "Life of Frobenius." . . .

That *Henry Saylor*, one-time editor of *Country Life in America*, and author of "Tinkering with Tools," a charming book about amateur carpentry, has joined the staff of Scribner's as editor of *Architecture*.

That Mr. *Frank V. Morley's* "River Thames" is to be published by Harper's. It is illustrated by *Laurence Irving*, grandson of Sir Henry. . . .

That Harpers, we understand, plan to reissue some of the too-little-known-by-the-younger-generation short-stories of *Mary E. Wilkins* in a volume. Hurrah! Mrs. Wilkins is one of the real people. . . .

That the editors of *The Saturday Review* take their luncheon at the Hotel Unabridged on Forty-Fifth Street. . . .

That *Don Marquis*, who has been acting up in Maine (we beg his pardon, not "acting up," but "acting" and "up in Maine!") has won great applause as a thespian and proved once more the versatility of his genius. . . .

That *Joe Hergesheimer's* new novel, "Tampico," is, naturally, laid in tropical Mexico, and is an engrossing study of the power of the individual over even the deadly jungle. . . .

That *Ford Madox Ford* has really produced an intimate view of the actual France in his "A Mirror to France" (Boni). His is the France little frequented by foreigners, untouristed, fundamental, unchanging. . . .

As for us, we recommend your glance at *Joseph Warren Beach's* "The Outlook for American Prose," a book stimulating, if only of disagreement. Some of the papers included have been published in periodicals heretofore. One that we thought especially good originally appeared in the *Atlantic*. It is called "Proud Words." Mr. Beach commendably criticizes some of the best contemporary writers for their inexactitude of language, their mere bowing acquaintance with the dictionary. In another paper, "Unripe Fruits," under the subtitle "Incoherence in the Philosopher" the linguistic practice of Professor John Dewey (grand mogul among American philosophers) is subjected to unsparring analysis. . . .

Mr. Beach will perform a signal service to American letters if he continues to point out instances of illiteracy in our modern great. The world is full today of excessively careless writing. In the case of writers of admittedly superior talent Jove nods too often. Mr. Beach's book comes from The University of Chicago Press. . . .

The *Witter Bynner* Undergraduate Poetry Prize for 1926 has gone to *Langston Hughes* of Lincoln University, whose book of poems, "The Weary Blues," was published earlier this year by Knopf, with an introduction by *Carl Van Vechten*. This is the second year that Mr. Bynner's prize has gone to a negro, the award for 1925 being made to the celebrated negro poet, *Countée Cullen*. . . .

American writers who endorse St. Jean-de-Luz, on the "other side," as a good work-and-play place are *Louis Bromfield* and *Edna Ferber*. There is lots of swimming, golf, and tennis. . . .

Awhile back we spoke of *Kipling* having mentioned the "fifty ultimate comedies and tragedies to which the gods mercifully limit human action and suffering." "What are

they?" we inquired. Now *Edward Bergin* writes to inform us that "Politi, George, Les Trente-Six Situations Dramatiques, published by *Mercur de France*, 1895, may throw some light on the fifty. Mr. Kipling seems to have discovered fourteen more." Mr. Bergin, be it said, types his suggestion from the University of Detroit, Detroit, Michigan. . . .

News of *C. LeRoy Baldrige*, who—previous to the latest celebrity, Captain *John W. Thomason*—was hailed as the greatest interpreter in pencil of the late A. E. F., is that he and his wife, *Caroline Singer*, are on a leisurely motor trip to Santa Fé from New York. Their new joint book, "Turn to the East," is being printed by *William E. Rudge* and will be published by *Minton, Balch* in September. There will be at least one sketch on every page, printed by means of the new Aquatone process, which affords an absolutely exact reproduction of the original. In addition the book will contain eight full pages in color. . . .

The same firm will bring out on September 10th *Armistead Gordon's* "Allegra: The Story of *Byron* and *Miss Clairmont*." The author is a collateral descendant of the same Eight Gordons of whom *Byron's* mother was one. He lays particular emphasis on *Byron's* inheritance from the wild *Gordon* side. . . .

We are glad to note that *Holt* is publishing a new volume of poems by *Humbert Wolfe*, "Humoresque." *Wolfe* is the most promising of the younger poets in England today. . . .

Both *Sherwood Anderson* and *T. S. Stribling* are enthusiastic about *Elizabeth Madox Roberts's* "The Time of Man," a new novel from the *Viking Press*. . . .

Miss *Roberts* brought out a book of poems of childhood, "Under the Tree," several years ago, which had a fine distinction. "The Time of Man" is a long book, a full, slow-moving one. Its characters are "poor whites" in the Kentucky hills. But there is an unusual flexibility and felicity in the language wherein the tale is told. There is an extraordinary insight into dumb, driven lives. . . .

A new volume of poems from *Orrick Johns* is "Wild Plum" (Macmillan) Mr. Johns has not collected his later work for a long time. He is a fine poet who should be accorded a high place in modern American verse. . . .

Two *Van Dorens* produce first novels this season. *Carl Van Doren*, the critic, through *Harcourt*, gives us "The Ninth Wave." His sister-in-law, *Dorothy Van Doren*, enters the lists with "Strangers."

*Alyse Gregory*, former managing editor of the *Dial* and now the wife of *Llewelyn Powys*, is likewise a first novelist. Her "She Shall Have Music" (*Harcourt*) relates a girl's spiritual pilgrimage from the confines of vulgar convention. . . .

Did you ever hear *Carl Sandburg* sing "The Boll Weevil Song"? Well, "The American Songbag" is his forthcoming collection of native American folksong. He has accumulated in his travels with a guitar songs of the Southern Negro, of the Kentucky and Tennessee mountaineers, of the midwest farm country, and of the miners and cowboys of the far west. He sings "Frankie and Johnnie" as "Frankie and Albert,"—but let that pass. The Songbag is sure to be full of good stuff. . . .

*Donald Ogden Stewart* and bride are now abroad. Mrs. Stewart was *Miss Beatrice Ames* of Montecito, California. Stewart's new book, "Mr. and Mrs. Haddock in Paris, France," will be brought out by Harper's in the fall. . . .

This summer *Hodder & Stoughton* in England are publishing a new *Buchan* novel, "The Dancing Floor." All *John Buchan* devotees please copy! Naturally, it's packed with adventure, and is also about modern English life, with a "love-interest." *Buchan's* work for Messrs. *Nelson* and his history of the war seemed to be completely absorbing him. But now, thank heaven, he appears to be loose again. . . .

*Ezra Pound's* "Personæ" will be published on September 15th. The delay has been occasioned by the fact that two compositors and three proof readers have become stark raving mad from trying to follow Mr. Pound's voluminous hints to printers. The final work is now being done by a young man suffering from a severe attack of biliousness, who does not notice the lack of punctuation, because of the fact that the specks dancing before his eyes seem to punctuate the poetry perfectly. The firm in which all this is happening is *Boni and Liveright*. . . .

Salaam!

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