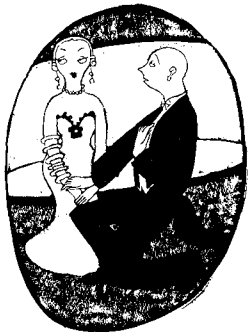


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would hardly recognize the smell of cedar "as he had never sharpened a pencil," or that somebody speaks "with an accent like an American's," and his archeology is open to question—we do not think beer and cane-sugar were known in ancient Palestine and we are sure silk was not. But the latter is no more than a peccadillo which can be forgiven in view of the fact that we are furnished with an abundance of perfectly accurate detail that does much to bring people, times, and book to life; and even the former helps the brisk, busy narrative.

The ground plan of the work is extremely ingenious; so ingenious that one is left at the end doubting whether Jonah is a Freudian case or a genuine prophet operating under the inspiration of a difficult God, forever incomprehensible to man. The double effect is apparently intentional, and though it robs the emotional moments of much of their force, it makes the book particularly good for those who like to read with their brains instead of their feelings.

F. P.

Miscellaneous

THE COLONIAL PRINTER. By Lawrence C. Wroth. Portland, Maine: Southworth-Anthoensen Press. 1938. \$7.50.

Mr. Wroth's book was first issued by the Grolier Club in 1931, as a charmingly printed but very expensive publication of

the Club. It was (and still is) the most important contribution to the technical history of the printing office since Updike's work on printing types. It is therefore fortunate that we now have it issued in a larger, lower priced edition; and the opportunity to revise and enlarge it with information accrued during the past seven years has been taken advantage of.

The contents of the book deal with the Colonial printing house in many of its major phases—and most of its minor ones. The history of the establishment of printing in the British colonies is followed by chapters on the physical appurtenances—tools, presses, ink, type, paper—in the Colonial offices, on the conditions of labor, on binding, and on the product of the early presses.

Changes from the first edition consist of a few modifications of opinions expressed therein, additional information (for instance, as to the first printing in Colonial Maryland), and some new material. In the latter category are a number of additional plates, and especially a series of admirable drawings of the early forms of the wooden hand press. Mr. Wroth is our foremost authority on the early Colonial printing house, and he has here brought into one volume a great store of information, as well as some very sound reasoning about these obscure points on which it seems easier to be sentimental than sensible. The book

(Continued on page 22)

The Criminal Record

The Saturday Review's Guide to Detective Fiction

Title and Author	Crime, Place, Sleuth	Summing Up	Verdict
MURDER TO HOUNDS Edward Acheson (Harcourt, Brace: \$2.)	Murder of Virginia tycoon and subsequent envenoming of sister-in-law engross attention of F.B.I. and mysterious Britisher Dowell-Blakeley.	'Midst pleasantly horsey surroundings imperceptible and enigmatic Briton solves double killing, and neatly double-crosses vindictive criminal.	Good hunting!
MURDER FOR CHRISTMAS Agatha Christie (Dodd, Mead: \$2.)	Uncomfortable English family reunion punctuated by stabbing of patriarch with lurid past. H. Poirot on hand.	Slow start, interesting middle, rather incredible conclusion add up to entertaining but grade B Christie.	For Poirot fans
MURDER IS NOT ENOUGH Susan Wells (Simon and Schuster: \$2.)	Vengeance - murderer gets careless after three deaths, which enables Anthony Ware to collar killer intent on fourth slaying.	Yachts off California coast scene of thrilling, romantic, and slightly overwritten affair with many tense moments and adequate sleuthing.	Worth-while
LIGHTNING STRIKES TWICE Lee Thayer (Dodd, Mead: \$2.)	Rabbit-punch kills mystery-woman on West Indies cruise. P. Clancey splits dual personality, spots killer.	Romance, robbery, and humor add zest to aboard-ship mystery no better or no worse than most of its type.	Readable
THE BIG SLEEP Raymond Chandler (Knopf: \$2.)	Paralyzed Cal. millionaire with psychopathic daughters hires private dick to clear up blackmailing: which turns into murder and worse.	Lot of nastily added ten-minute eggs ram-paging in tough but high-gloss lingo from super-heated start to fantastic finish.	Ham-metic
THE BODY THAT WASN'T UNCLE George Worthing Yates (Morrow: \$2.)	Wrongful identification of poisoned corpse in N. J. snowdrift works ill for kin of Miss Meynard who calls in ex-Yarder Woor.	Authentic local color, good character drawing, considerable humor, unorthodox detective, and plot that skids round sharp corners.	Intri-cate

