

Books Across the Sea, Aldwych House, London Bulletin

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SUMMARY OF THE PRESIDENT'S SPEECH: Mr. Eliot opened the Annual Meeting of Books Across the Sea by reading a cable received from the New York Circle of Books Across the Sea:

"Like two volumes on one bookshelf our two Circles stand together on intellectual, cultural, spiritual, common ground. May our united efforts demonstrate sturdiness on that ground and importance of practicing on relatively easy problems of understanding with help of common language as training for more difficult post war challenge to world wide extirpation of misconceptions and ignorances that undermine international co-operation. With you in spirit this second anniversary your pioneer activity for better understanding through books.

Circle in America per Beatrice Wardo."

Mr. Eliot in his Presidential address said a point had been reached where it is permissible and prudent to look ahead to the cessation of hostilities and to our future activities in the days of peace. Twenty years ago an association for the furthering of cultural relations would have aroused nothing more than amused scepticism in his mind, as he believed, at that time, that such a matter should be left to the activities and personal friendships of individuals. He believed the latter were just as important now, but the revolutionary change in world conditions convinced him of the importance of voluntary societies, such as this association, which will play a very important part in the peace. Associations such as Books Across the Sea have the middle place between the activities of the government and the communications of the individual, safeguarding cultural relations from political groups and avoiding the danger of commercial relations.

Pointing out that nations are frequently misrepresented, not only by people of other countries, but by their own Press and films, Mr. Eliot added that the struggle against misconceptions and misrepresentation could never end since as each old misconception died, a new one sprang up.

Mr. Eliot said that the London Circle has two tasks: first, the provision of books that have not been published over here, for the use of those who need and want them, and second, the promotion of books that deserve a wide circulation in both countries. The first presupposes finding the people who need information about new books. It means that our library ought to include many volumes which ought to be seen by the elite of both countries, even though, for economic reasons, they cannot be published. As for our second task, a recommendation from the Book Selection Committee of B.A.S. should in time come to carry great weight with the publishers.

ANNUAL MEETING REPORT: A complete report of the Annual Meeting of Books Across the Sea is available at Aldwych House. Owing to paper shortage we are unable to send it as formerly to all members. To those who would like a copy we will gladly send one on receipt of a written request.

SCRAPBOOKS: Three of the twenty special American High School scrapbooks referred to in the Chairman's Report at our Annual Meeting have arrived. They are from West Seattle, Topeka and Minneapolis respectively, and if the rest of the group reach the high standard which these have set, the twenty will indeed convey a fascinating, lively and comprehensive picture of Young America Today. Whereas earlier scrapbook exchanges have been arranged to show how people in

various regions of the United States and Britain live, the special American scrapbooks are planned round the somewhat more ambitious theme, "What America Means to Us". Twenty comparable books will go from Britain to the United States, and plans are in hand for assembling these by Christmas or early in the New Year. A special reception will be held for the twenty American books as soon as all have reached us, and arrangements are being made to exhibit them throughout the country.

NEW BOOKS FROM AMERICA:

- Juveniles: Pocahontas, by Mildred Criss. (A biography for girls from 12 to 14).
Admiral Wags, by Fanny Jessop Sherman.
Stand by - Mark! by Frederick M. Gardiner.
- Fiction: Heaven is a Sunswept Hill by Earl Guy. (A story of small holders in the frequently flooded flat lands of the Lower Mississippi).
- General: Brothers Under the Skin, by Cary McWilliams. (The problem of treatment and status of certain minorities in the U.S. and territories.)
The City, its growth, its decay, its future., by Eliel Saarinen (A study of community design by the noted architect.)
The legacy of Nazism by Frank Munk. (The economic and social consequences of totalitarianism.)
- History: The growth of American nationality 1492 - 1865 by Fred W. Wolbourn.
The Age of Enterprise, by T.C. Cochran and W. Miller. (A social history of industrial America).
The Year of Decision: 1846, by Bernard De Voto. (The story of some of the settlers of the West.)
- The Arts: Art today, by A. Faulkner, etc. (An introduction to Fine and Functional arts: textbook).
Music on the Air, by Hazel Gertrude Kinscella.
- War: Wartime opportunities for women, by Evelyn M. Steele.

AMERICAN BOOK HOUR.

The first of a new series of American Book Hours will be held at 5.30 p.m. on Friday, September 17th, 1943 at Dartmouth House, 37 Charles Street, W.1.

6/ Professor Henry Steele Commager will speak on American History and Fiction. Professor Commager is the eminent historian and co-author of The Heritage of America, The Growth of the American Republic, and America, the Story of a Free People. He will shortly be returning to America and we are very pleased indeed to be able to introduce him to our members and friends before his departure.

As usual, members of Books Across the Sea and of the English-Speaking Union will be admitted without charge. Admission to the general public; one shilling.

Barbara Bonner

Honorary Secretary.