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BOOK REVIEWS

CLASSIC RETURNS

BY MICHAEL ROGERS

NONFICTION

Farrell, James T.

A Note on Literary Criticism.

Columbia Univ. Pr. Jun. 1993. 213p. permanent paper. ISBN 0-231-08256-8. \$35; pap. Morningside Bk. ISBN 0-231-08257-6. \$16. LIT

Though Farrell is better known for *Studs Lonigan*, this study of the Marxist and Trotskyite influence in literature was a groundbreaker in 1936. In his introduction, scholar Alan Wald comments that the jury is still out on Farrell's exact place in the annals of American letters, but he also contends this particular work has been the basis for many additional studies of communism in literature. A solid title for academic and public literature collections.

Muir, John. **The Cruise of the *Corwin*.**

Sierra Club, dist. by Random. 1993. 226p. permanent paper. index. ISBN 0-87156-523-4. pap. \$10. NAT HIST

In 1881, noted naturalist Muir sailed for the Arctic aboard the steamer *Thomas Corwin* as part of a rescue mission to locate members of an earlier expedition. En route, he sent dispatches describing the trip and the then little-explored Alaskan tundra. Parts natural history title, travelog, and adventure story, this record of his trip is suitable for both public and academic libraries.

Terry, Paul W. & Verner M. Sims. **They Live on the Land.**

Univ. of Alabama Pr. 1993. 313p. permanent paper. photos. ISBN 0-8173-0587-4. pap. \$19.95. SOC SCI

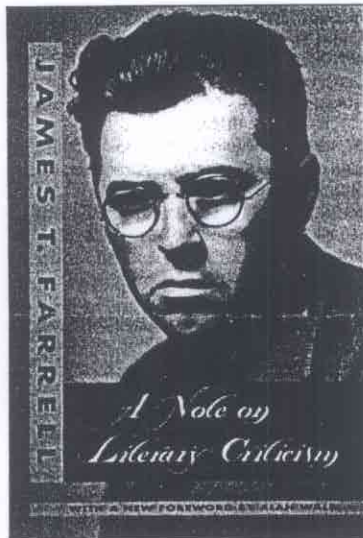
University of Alabama professors Terry and Sims published this sociological study of the rural South in 1940. Using the town of Gorgas, Alabama as their focus, the two interviewed and observed residents in all aspects of their lives, which were changing rapidly following the Depression and World War II. This edition contains a new introduction by scholar Clarence L. Mohr, who analyzes the data from a modern standpoint.

Weisberg, Harold.

Martin Luther King: The Assassination.

Carroll & Graf Pubs. 1993. 530p. index. ISBN 0-88184-994-4. pap. \$12.95. HIST

Initially published in 1971 under the title *Frame-Up* (*LJ* 6/1/71), this work by investigative journalist Weisberg argues that convicted assassin James Earl Ray was innocent and that the truth was covered up. Published to commemorate the 25th anniversary of King's death, this has a new postscript by Ray.



Farrell takes a Left turn in this benchmark title on literary Marxism

FICTION

de Chirico, Giorgio. **Hebdomeros.**

Exact Change. 1993. 258p. ISBN 1-878972-06-5. pap. \$15.95. F

Art aficionados may recognize de Chirico as a surrealist painter who gained recognition in that field before briefly switching over to fiction. Much like his brushwork, de Chirico's pen produced what many feel is one of the first (1929) and perhaps best surrealist novels. Along with the title work, this contains several shorter pieces and an introduction by poet/art critic John Ashbery.

Harris, Christie. **Raven's Cry.**

Univ. of Washington Pr. Jun. 1993. 194p. permanent paper. illus. ISBN 1-55054-055-6. pap. \$12.95. F

First published in 1966, this historical novel followed the changes occurring during the lives of three successive chiefs of Canada's Haida Indian tribe. Although Harris's style is not exciting in the traditional Western manner, *LJ*'s reviewer found that she had done "an excellent job of telling the story from the viewpoint of the Indians, and she brings to life the effect of the white man's civilization on that of the Indian" (*LJ* 10/15/66). This edition has a new foreword by Haida artist Robert Davidson and anthropologist Margaret Blackman. With

the growing interest in Indian culture, this book may be better received now.

Hotchner, A.E. **King of the Hill.**

HarperCollins. 1993. 240p. ISBN 0-06-092405-5. pap. \$10. F

Hotchner's 1972 autobiographical novel tells the story of young protagonist Aaron's growing up in St. Louis during the Depression, with much of the plot revolving around the lack of money and the lengths people went to get it. Though *LJ*'s reviewer found the book "not a vital purchase but recommended" (*LJ* 7/72), an upcoming film version should generate interest.

O'Brian, Patrick. **Testimonies.**

Norton. May 1993. c.224p. ISBN 0-393-03483-6. \$20.95. F

O'Brian has become quite popular in recent years thanks to his British Navy novels featuring Captain Jack Aubrey and Stephen Maturin. When this appeared in 1952, however, he was a relative newcomer. In relating the tragic love story of a Welsh farm wife and an Oxford don, O'Brian takes the unique approach of having each chapter told by a different character. *LJ*'s reviewer praised the book for its "atmosphere of emotional tension and a lyric quality in the descriptions" (*LJ* 9/1/52).

Richardson, Henry Handel.

The Getting of Wisdom.

Mercury House, dist. by Consortium. May 1993. 233p. permanent paper. illus. ISBN 1-56279-042-0. \$25. F

Henry Handel Richardson was the norm de plume of Nobel Prize nominee Ethel Florence Lindesay Richardson. This semiautobiographical novel tells the story of Laura Rambotham, who, like her creator, attends an all-girl Presbyterian school in Melbourne, Australia. This especially handsome edition is illustrated with eight paintings by Australia's leading Impressionist, Frederick McCubbin, and has a ribbon marker for an extra touch of class.

Spark, Muriel. **The Public Image.**

New Directions, dist. by Norton. May. 1993. c.144p. ISBN 0-8112-1246-7. pap. \$8.95. F

Sparks's 1968 novel throws a spotlight on protagonist Anna Christopher, the darling of the movies who seems a perfect woman with a hot marriage and skyrocketing career but who is actually conniving, ruthless, and cold. Her husband's suicide, however, reveals her true colors, leading Anna to receive her just rewards. This "entertaining and lightly ironic novel" (*LJ* 8/68) has a place in large fiction collections.

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