

*By Eve Auchincloss*

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THE CARD CATALOGUE of the New York Public Library lists 53 books purporting to be by John F. Kennedy and 210 titles about him in a variety of languages. These include 12 books of poetry and such special items as "Go Caroline!" by George Plimpton, of which only eight copies were printed.

A few of these books have achieved large and lasting sales. Kennedy's own "Profiles in Courage," first published in 1956, has sold well over a million copies in hardcover alone. His "Why England Slept," an undergraduate thesis brashly published as a book, sold 81,000 copies between 1962 and 1968.

Theodore H. White's "The Making of the President 1960," published in 1961, sold close to a million hard-bound copies and is still selling slowly today. In paperback it has sold nearly 400,000 copies.

In 1965 the great adulatory post-

mortems began to roll. Arthur M. Schlesinger Jr.'s "The Thousand Days" has probably sold about half a million hardcover, including Book-of-the-Month Club sales, and is still selling about 1,000 a year. Paperback sales are around 600,000. Theodore Sorensen's "Kennedy," published the same year, has sold about 135,000 copies and is still going at about 500 a year. It has gone through seven printings in paperback.

John K. Jessup's "JFK As We Remember Him," Paul Fay's "The Pleasure of His Company" and Pierre Salinger's "With Kennedy" are all still selling. Kenny O'Donnell and Dave Powers' "Johnny We Hardly Knew Ye," published last year, has sold at least 120,000 copies in hardcover. In paperback this fall, it has already sold 1.3 million.

The first successful anti-Kennedy book, Victor Lasky's "JFK: The Man and the Myth," came out in 1966 and sold 125,000 copies.

Assassination books include several big sellers. Bantam Books' paperback of the Warren Commission report, published in 1964, sold 1.6 million copies; "The Witnesses,"

excerpted from commission testimony, sold 400,000. Edward Jay Epstein's "Inquest," in 1966, sold 400,000 paperbacks.

In 1967 came William Manchester's "Death of a President," which sold over 650,000 copies in hardcover and is still selling 1,000 a year. Probably over a million paperbacks have been sold. Jim Bishop's "The Day Kennedy Was Shot," in 1968, another big best-seller, has gone through five paperback printings.

Revisionist history has not achieved such commercial success, although David Halberstam's gossip-packed "The Best and the Brightest" has sold 175,000 copies and is still going strong.

The modest Jackie literature, eight titles, includes one best-seller: Mary Gallagher's "My Life With Jacqueline Kennedy," published in 1969, which sold 100,000 hardcover copies but is no longer moving.

The latest valentine, just out, is Cecil Stoughton and Chester Clifton's "The Memories—JFK, 1961-1963." And Rose Kennedy's autobiography, due next spring, is certain to be a best-seller.