

NEW ADDRESS: Rt. 7, Frederick, Md. 21701

12/1/67

Editor, News
Frederick, Md. 21701

Dear Sir,

Only a man for whom ignorance is no barrier to the holding and expression of unqualified opinion would say of William Manchester's book that he in it "uncovered more about the assassination than the Warren "report" and did this "single handedly".

If the Pulitzer Prize is ever awarded for inaccuracy, Mr. Richard Leberz's idol Manchester will have no competition. It is a work of conspicuous inaccuracy, wrong in the most exquisitely fine detail. A man of normal intelligence writing a work of fiction could readily produce a work closer to reality.

If this is the season for "Book Suggestions For Christmas", may I recommend "Common Sense", for dilettantes, the crooked-finger set and Richard Leberz?

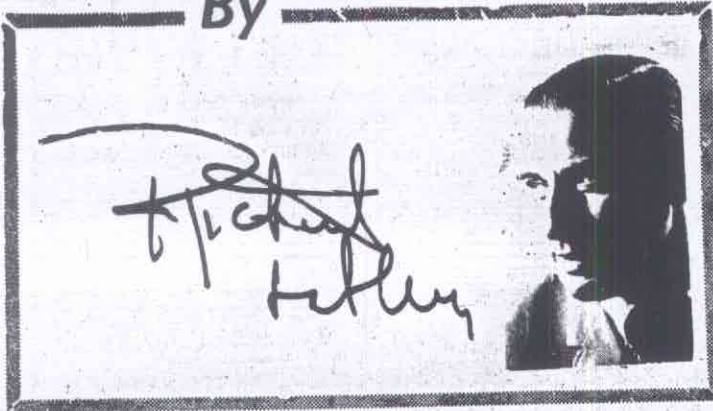
Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg

P.S. Harper & Row, not Macmillan, is publisher of the Manchester exercise in the extension of high-school journalism. However, those of your readers who may be deceived by Mr. Leberz's inaccuracy and waste their money on this trash will be in safe hands with Ernie Berger, who knows who published what.

News - Fred 17/1/67

By



BOOK SUGGESTIONS FOR CHRISTMAS

With Christmas in the air I thought it might be a good idea if I offered a few suggestions on books that have come out in 1967. I have read them and I can recommend them.

FICTION

TALES OF MANHATTAN by Louis Auchincloss, Houghton Mifflin, \$4.95. A collection of short stories which are first rate. I think Auchincloss, whom you may remember for *The Rector of Justin* and *The Embezzler* is one of the best writers in America today.

Recommended for lawyers, bankers, society matrons and Henry James' fans.

Not recommended for Dagmar, Peanuts fans, and Martha Raye.

THE CONFESSIONS OF NAT TURNER by William Styron. Random House, \$6.95. One of the most beautifully written novels of this year. It tells the story of Nat Turner's slave uprising in Virginia around 1860. If you like fine writing this is a must.

Recommended for Northerners, lovers of good literature, and Willa Cather fans.

Not recommended for Southern ladies with faint hearts, Barry Goldwater, and Stokely Carmichael.

THE ARRANGEMENT by Elia Kazan, Doubleday, \$6.95. I put off reading this novel because it sounded like trash but once I did begin to read it, I realized that it had a lot to offer, outside of sex, and that it gave a very honest picture of our times and especially of those who have to make an arrangement with life in order to get by.

Recommended for *Catcher in the Rye* fans, commuters, psychiatrists, and Frank Sinatra.

Not recommended for William O. Douglas starlets or the Boston Strangler.

THE FIFTH HORSEMAN by Nathan Adams, Random House,

\$4.95. This is one of the best written and conceived novels of this year by the great-grandson of Henry Adams. It will hold your interest from start to finish. It deals with a Nazi who is used as bait to catch an even bigger Nazi. First rate.

Recommended for hunters, Graham Greene fans, Gold-fingers and the State Department.

Not recommended for Ex-Nazis, nervous readers, Rudolph Hess.

DEATH KIT by Susan Sontag, Farrar, Straus, & Cudahy, \$5.95. Susan is one of the "in" writers which means she has appeared in the *Partisan Review* and at a few "in" parties in New York. The novel deals with a man who thinks he has committed a murder on a train but the only witness is a blind girl. The style is very New Yorkish but in a curious way it is interesting.

Recommended for Truman Capote, readers with suicidal tendencies, and Jennifer Jones.

Not recommended for Louisa M. Alcott fans, train conductors, or LSD addicts.

In the non-fiction world there were a great many good books to choose from.

NICHOLAS AND ALEXANDRIA by Robert K. Massie, Atheneum, \$10. If there is any one who wonders why the Russian Revolution ever happened, they have only to read this exciting, fast moving account of what happened when Rasputin entered the life of the Czar and his family. This biography has all the sweep and color of a Barbara Tuchman work and it is very readable.

Recommended for Anastasia, Jean Dixon, Communism Party card holders and J. Edgar Hoover.

Not recommended for Dean Rusk, Betty Grable and Bonnie and Clyde.

MADAM SARAH by Cornelia Otis Skinner, Houghton Mifflin, \$6.95. The Divine Sarah in the hands of the Divine Cornelia comes alive and glowing. The writing is good and Miss Skinner's humorous remarks on the side are even better. Certainly anyone interested in the theatre ought to read it. The subject matter will be used in a musical next year but don't let that put you off.

Recommended for David Merrick, Charles de Gaulle and Shirley Temple Black.

Not recommended for Mia Farrow, method actors, and Co Co Chanel.

THE DEATH OF A PRESIDENT by William Manchester, Macmillan, \$10. Certainly the most publicized and discussed book of the year. Manchester, single handedly, uncovered more about the assassination than the Warren Report was able to do collectively. No future work can be done on the assassination without this book being used as a reference.

Recommended for liberal democrats, historians, and Harold Weisberg.

Not recommended for The John Birch Society, Gen. Edwin A. Walker or Radical Right.

THE NEW INDUSTRIAL SOCIETY by John Kenneth Galbraith, Houghton Mifflin, \$6.95. Galbraith wrote that economic classic, *The Affluent Society*, and now turns his attention onto the gigantic industrial firms whose technology and manipulation of capital in our society is changing it gradually through the years. He also points out the dangers which are inherent in a society which lets industry take over the government.

Recommended for Betty Furness, Nelson Rockefeller, or

J. Paul Getty.

Not recommended for beatniks, Za Za Gabor, or Michael Chaplin.

BY LINE: ERNEST HEMINGWAY, Scribners, \$8.95. If you are a Hemingway fan and you thought that his death would mean the end to his writing you are mistaken. This collection of pieces from newspapers and magazines from the beginning of his career to the end, are as fresh and newly minted today as when he wrote them. And there is a great deal of humor in them which came as a surprise.

Recommended for Safari Clubs, William Holden, Marlene Dietrich.

Not recommended for the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, Norman Mailer, or Stewart Udall.

COCKTAILS AT THE CLATER SMITH JRS.

The Clater Smith Jrs. of East Second Street gave a rather large cocktail party two days after Thanksgiving which was no turkey.

The party began at 5:30 and guests continued to arrive on up until 9 p.m.

Mrs. Smith, whose dark Irish beauty is well known, wore a floor length yellow paisley-pattered wool skirt with a white knit blouse.

The topics of conversation were numerous but one of the main ones was, would Mata Hari close at the National in Washington or wouldn't it? . . . Judge and Mrs. Robert Clapp had seen it and were skeptical about its survival. Mrs. Arthur Richards liked it very much and thought it had a good chance. . . Charles Reed back from Asheville, was sporting a moustache and looking very very English. . . Mr. and Mrs. Walter Crothers arrived with their daughter and her husband, Mr. and Mrs. Roger Doyle from Pensacola, Florida. . . Mr. and Mrs. Richard Malone were there. She's the daughter of the William Plummer's of Buckeystown. She has a soft beauty that takes your breath away. Cappy and her husband are on their way to Monterey, Calif. He has just been commissioned in the Army. . . Mr. and Mrs. Joe Urner came. . . Dr. and Mrs. Robert Thomas arrived. This was Phyllis's first time out since the arrival of their daughter. . . Mrs. Ben Rosenstock had on an attractive white faille dress with heavy lace about the shoulders. . . I had a brief chat with the James McSherry's whose daughter Natalie makes her debut at the Baltimore Bachelor's Cotillon on Dec. 1st. . . Mrs. Elizabeth Musser was telling me that her son, Jon, is a good friend of Lynda Bird's fiance and that he would be at the White House Wedding. . . Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Wells brought their daughter Betsy, who looked like she could be Doris Day's daughter. . . Senator and Mrs. Goodloe Byron arrived enthused over the Center Stage production of Hamlet which they had seen the night before.



WILLIAM STYRON is author of *The Confessions of Nat Turner*, one of the most beautifully written books of 1967. The novel will most probably win the National Book Award for this year and may even win the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction.