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## Reading in the Home: Knowing other Countries through Books - Fourth Year

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# READING <sup>IN</sup> THE HOME

*"Knowing other Countries through Books"*

Fourth Year



BY BURTON HOLMES FROM EWING GALLOWAY, N.Y.

EXTENSION SERVICE  
SOUTH DAKOTA STATE COLLEGE  
BROOKINGS, S. D.

## THE PICTURES ON THE COVER

### FRONT COVER

In France the majority of farmers are villagers. For the most part the barn is a part of the dwelling. Here you see one taking out his oxen to be hitched to the general farm wagon at the left of the picture. Oxen are still used, especially to the north where a great deal of sugar beets and grain are raised.

### BACK COVER

1. Every country has its own way of going to market. This is a Mongolian woman in northern India near the Tibetan line. Generally the women carry their produce by straps from the shoulder and head. She is taking a rest. Any one would after carrying a big load on her back and a child in her arms with a second child hanging to her skirts. How much easier it would have been to load all in a car and step on the gas as in our country.

2. A Norwegian woman milking her goat. When seen for the first time this is rather an amusing operation. The milkmaid seizes the goat, straddles her with face toward the goat's tail, stoops down and proceeds to milk. From a little distance all you see is the goat's legs emerging from a blue skit.

3. No country in the world uses its inland waterways more than China, where they are used for dwelling, transportation and making a living. This picture is the Chu-kiang or Pearl River at Canton. The boats in the foreground are sampans, where hundreds of thousands make their homes. The small children wear floats on their backs so that in the event they fall over board they can be rescued.

4. A street scene in Venice, Italy where the streets are canals and the means of getting about is the gondola. On lovely moonlight evenings it is delightful to listen to band concerts as one glides along the water. The Municipal Band plays from boats on the Grand Canal in the evenings. Venice has a restful and peaceful atmosphere. The bridge in the background is the famous Bridge of Sighs.

5. There are no baby carriages in Japan. The children are carried on the back by means of a wide strip of cloth around the child and crossing over the breast of the mother.

6. The leaning tower of Pisa is familiar to all. It was built to serve as a bell tower for the adjoining church. The bells are not rung any more because the vibrations may cause the building to weaken.

7. Women play a large part in the production work on the Norwegian farm. These women are haying. In order that the hay may properly dry it must be hung up on rocks placed in the hay fields. The heavy dew and frequent rain will not permit it to dry on the ground.

8. The Taj Mahal at Agra, India is considered the most beautiful building in the world. It was built, about the time the Pilgrims came to this country, by an Indian king to commemorate his love for his favorite wife. It is strange that the most beautiful monument ever erected in honor of a woman should have been built in a section of the world where women are considered much inferior to men and greatly abused.

9. Going about Tokyo, Japan in the usual taxi, the jin-riki-sha. The endurance of these men is surprising. They can continue a dog trot by the hour.

10. In oriental towns much of the business and living is done right on the street. This picture shows a barber at work in Agra, India. His shop is any place where he can find a customer.

11. The camel has often been called the ship of the desert and is largely used for transportation in certain sections of Egypt and other countries.

## FOREWORD

Reading needs are repeatedly mentioned by rural homemakers through the following questions:

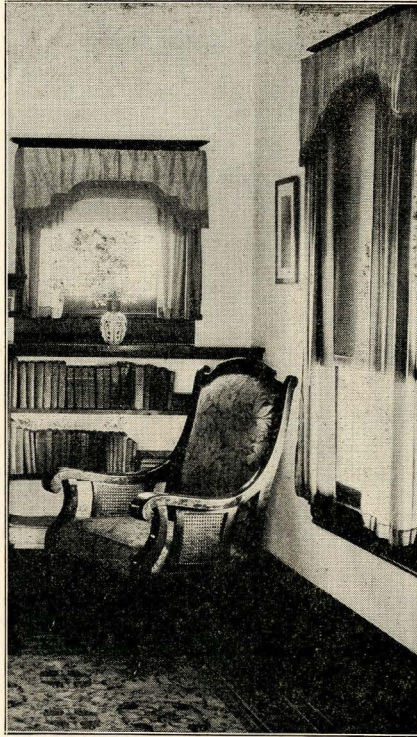
1. How can we secure good books to supply our reading needs at as low cost as do the town homemakers with their public library facilities?
2. Where can we secure assistance and suggestions to aid us in our reading selection?
3. How can we become better readers so that we may get the most out of what we read?

To take care of this need, the South Dakota Free Library Commission and the Extension Service at State College cooperatively developed plans for a five year "Reading in the Home" project for Home Extension Clubs, other groups and individuals in the state interested.

This circular is the fourth in the series, and is intended to help the reader to "Know Other Countries Through Books." The first year's circular gave detailed information regarding services available from the Free Library Commission at Pierre and methods of establishing country libraries.

The second year circular featured knowing South Dakota through a better understanding of the background developed by our pioneers. Such books as "Giants of the Earth," and "A Lantern in Her Hand," were suggested for reading.

The third circular in the series was written around the theme—"Knowing America Through Books."



A DELIGHTFUL PLACE TO READ  
*(Bookcase is homemade)*

# READING IN THE HOME

## FOURTH YEAR

By Leora J. Lewis, Director, South Dakota Free Library Commission, Pierre  
Mary A. Dolve, Supervisor, Home Extension Work, State College, Brookings

THE NEIGHBORHOOD ENLARGES.—Friendship between neighbors is a natural development if people are normal and kindly. It is easy for persons living in the same town or on adjoining quarter sections of land to understand each others problems for similarities in background, experience and every day living make for tolerance, understanding and a true spirit of helpful neighborliness.

Due to the general use of the automobile, people have widened their circle of contacts in recent years and no longer remain in one locality. Country and town people have so intermingled that any apparent differences due to varying opportunities have broken down and since people of this generation think less of starting out on a trip of five hundred or a thousand miles than the people of fifty years ago did of driving fifty miles, people of different sections of the country have become rather well acquainted with each other. In other words the neighborhood has gradually enlarged and sectionalism is rapidly breaking down.

FOREIGN COUNTRIES BROUGHT NEARER.—Our contacts with other peoples are no longer limited to those whose countries we may visit, for the radio and the motion picture news reel are breaking down barriers not only between sections of our own country but between our country and foreign nations. Most of us sat spell bound when for the first time we heard over the radio a voice from a foreign land; now we take it as a matter of course that we can listen in on any international event. Through news reels, we have become so familiar with foreign cities that we even recognize certain buildings and settings before we hear their locations announced and the voices of Ramsay McDonald, Edouard Herriot, and Benito Mussolini are as easily recognizable over the radio as are those of our own men of public affairs.

Because of these experiences and because of the realization that the United States cannot, even if she wishes, maintain an isolation from foreign countries, there is a growing feeling that we should become better acquainted with these world neighbors of ours and a consequently increasing popularity of books which help in our understanding of the background, racial beliefs and customs of foreign peoples.

OTHER PEOPLE'S LIVES.—There are many kinds of books dealing with foreign peoples which engage our interest. Our attention may first be called to another country through the life story of one who has been prominent in the affairs of that country or through the autobiographical writings of some one who, though comparatively unknown, interprets a land unfamiliar to us through his own personal experiences.

Such a book is "The Daughter of the Samurai" by Etsu Sugimoto. The story of a girl brought up under the rigid regime of a Samurai household, enjoying the greater freedom of a school in Tokyo, and finally coming to America to marry a compatriot in business here, the book is revealing in the understanding which it gives of Japanese customs and is interpretive of that inner racial feeling which is responsible for the traditions of a country. The comparisons between Japan and the United States are particularly interesting. A new book by Mrs. Sugimoto, "A Daughter of the Narikin," is an interesting supplement to "A Daughter of the Samurai," and the two books will do much toward developing a sympathetic understanding of the Japanese people.

VICARIOUS TRAVEL.—The classification "travel" as applied to books is used rather loosely to include general descriptive matter concerning a country, the serious reflections of a seasoned traveler, or tales of thrilling adventure.

In the last named class falls "Adventures in Arabia" by William B. Seabrook, a colorful and intimate story of his sojourn among the Arabs which was made possible by a chance meeting with a young Arab in New York City. Mr. Seabrook enthusiastically presents the people as he finds them and interspersed throughout the book are stories of Arab life, which make fascinating reading and add to our understanding of Arab peoples.

A still more thrilling tale of adventure is "To Lhasa in Disguise," by William Montgomery McGovern. Going on a secret expedition to Tibet, a country fiercely jealous of its intruders, the author was forced to disguise himself as a coolie in order to avoid detection. "Going native," as he calls it, gave Mr. McGovern unusual opportunities to study the country. After terrific hardships he reached the sacred city of Lhasa, and this record of his achievement is more interesting and entertaining than any work of fiction.

One of the most prolific of travel writers is Harry A. Franck. In his "Vagabond Journey Around the World" he gives us a bird's eye view of the principal countries of Europe and Asia. In addition he has written travel journeys to many countries including China, Spain, Germany and the Scandinavian countries.

LIFE SHOWN THROUGH DRAMA.—Colorful glimpses of life in foreign countries are given through plays whose characters are portrayed by skillful actors. To one with imagination almost the same understanding comes through reading a play as from seeing it and in no way can a people be better understood than through a study of the representative drama of the country. For an insight into Norwegian character, one should read Ibsen. "The Doll's House" and "The Master Builder" are two plays which are almost universally liked. John Galsworthy's plays deal with almost every phase of English life. "Justice" is a scathing arraignment of the English penal system; "Loyalties" is based upon the conflict of loyalty to class, family, race and profession; "The Skin Game" shows the strife between the landed aristocracy and the new industrial class. Arnold Bennett in "Milestones" carries an English family through three generations. Light and amusing but interpretive of the breaking down of modern class distinctions in England is "A Bird In Hand" by John Drinkwater, and no reader of drama should forget to read James Barrie's "What Every Woman Knows" for its rich Scotch flavor and picture of feminine strategy.

ACCURATE PORTRAITS THROUGH FICTION.—Since the novel is the most popular form of literature, it is not surprising that some of our best introductions to foreign peoples come through fiction.

The growing interest in novels which deal with foreign peoples is illustrated by the popularity of "The Good Earth" written by Pearl Buck, a novel dealing with events in the lives of Chinese peasants. Chinese family life, the difficulties of maintaining a bare existence in a country overcrowded, famine stricken and torn with civil strife, are so vividly portrayed in this book that it is not an exaggeration to say that it has done more to present the Chinese people as real human beings than have all the other books on China published during the last ten years.

A greater contrast to "The Good Earth" than "Maria Chapdelaine" by Louis Hemon cannot be imagined. Where the former book is elemental and deals with primitive emotions, the latter is restrained, lofty and almost cold in the stark beauty of its writing. Yet it gives a never-to-be-forgotten picture of the hardships of a Canadian winter, of the revivifying influence of spring and of the purpose back of all life, which makes the book outstanding in modern fiction.

For strength of writing and character portrayal, few novels in modern literature equal those of Norway and Sweden. They are not however for the reader who likes his fiction sugar coated and who objects to plain treatment of the elemental facts of life. "The Great Hunger" by Johan Bojer, the story of a man



seeking all through life to prove his own divinity and finding the solution only after he had lost almost everything which he considered worth while; "Kristin Lavransdatter," the story of fourteenth century Norway, written by Sigrid Undset, and "The Ring of the Lowenskolds" by Selma Lagerof, are only a few of the Scandinavian novels which may be read again and again with a new discovery of strength and literary beauty in each reading.

May Lamberton Becker in her book, "Adventures in Reading," advises "Anna Karenina" by Tolstoy as the best book to use as an introduction to Russian literature. In explanation of the choice of a book which does not deal with present day Russia, Mrs. Becker reminds us that the Russian soul outlasts more than one change of government. She also says, "Someone has said that if you find anything in this novel (Anna Karenina) which seems to you not true to life, do not try to figure it out but close the book and go on living and in time life will verify the book."

In English literature the outstanding achievement in fiction mirroring English life is "The Forsyte Saga" by John Galsworthy, a trilogy of novels which with its sequel, "The Modern Comedy," has made the Forsyte family the best known family in fiction. So real had this family become in England, that when Soames Forsyte, the head of the clan died, a London daily paper ran a headline across the top of the page, "Soames Forsyte Dies." No other writer can claim a similar distinction for one of his characters.

Not the strongest novel of French life but one of the most interesting from the American point of view is "The Little French Girl" by Ann Douglas Sedgwick which is a study in contrasts between French and English traditions and customs.

OTHER CLASSES OF BOOKS.—The classes of books already discussed are only introductory to the study of a country. That history should be read goes without saying, for without a background, there can be no real understanding of present day life. Nor should poetry be neglected, for poets are the only ones who understand a country's soul.

Since a list published in a bulletin of this size must of course be limited in length, the book list which follows includes only drama, fiction, biography and travel. For the reader who wishes to read other classes of literature as well, additional books will gladly be recommended by any librarian.

## BOOKS WHICH INTERPRET FOREIGN COUNTRIES

## BIOGRAPHY

- Caste and Outcast, by Dhan G. Mukerji. (India)  
 Daughter of the Samurai, by Mrs. Etsu Sugimoto. (Japan)  
 Education of a Princess, by Marie, grand duchess of Russia. (Russia)  
 Grass Roof, by Younghill Kang. (Korea)  
 House of Exile, by Nora Waln. (China)  
 Lives of a Bengal Lancer, by Francis Yeats-Brown. (India)  
 My Brother's Face, by Dhan G. Mukerji. (India)  
 Schumann-Heink, the Last of the Titans, by Mary Lawton. (Austria)  
 Trader Horn, by Alfred A. Horn. (South Africa)

## TRAVEL

- Adventures in Arabia, by William B. Seabrook.  
 Arctic Rodeo, by Daniel Streeter.  
 Book of Lapp-land, by Johan Olafsson Turi.  
 Crossroads in Ireland, by Padraic Colum.  
 Denmark, The Land of the Sea Kings, by Clive Holland.  
 The French at Home; In the Country and In Town, by Phillip Carr.  
 French Ways and Their Meaning, by Mrs. Edith Wharton.  
 Hot Countries, by Alec Waugh. (West Indies, Tahiti, etc.)  
 Humanity Uprooted, by Maurice G. Hindus. (Russia)  
 In Brightest Africa, by Carl E. Akeley. (Africa)  
 In Search of England, by Henry C. Morton.  
 India, Land of the Black Pagoda, by Lowell Thomas.  
 Indian Journey, by Waldemar Bonsels. (India)  
 Mexico; A Study of Two Americas, by Stuart Chase.  
 New Russia, by Dorothy Thompson.  
 Nights and Days on the Gypsy Trail, by Irving Brown. (Spain)  
 Norwegian Towns and People, by Robert Medill McBride.  
 Paris in Profile, by George Slocombe.  
 Safari, by Martin Johnson. (Africa)  
 A Scandinavian Summer, by Harry A. Franck.  
 To Lhasa in Disguise, by William M. McGovern. (Tibet)  
 Two Vagabonds in Albania, by Jan and Cora Gordon.  
 Understanding India, by Mrs. Gertrude L. Williams.  
 Vagabond Journey Around the World, by Harry A. Franck.  
 Vagabonding at Fifty, by Elsie Reed Mitchell and Helen C. Wilson. (Russia)  
 A Way-farer in Sweden, by Frederick Whyte.

## DRAMA

- A Bird in Hand, by John Drinkwater. (England)  
 Cyrano de Bergerac, by Edmond Rostand. (France)  
 A Doll's House, by Henrick Ibsen. (Norway)  
 Dybbuk, by Solomon Rappoport. (Jewish)

Escape, by John Galsworthy. (England)  
 Justice, by John Galsworthy. (England)  
 Loyalties, by John Galsworthy. (England)  
 Liliom, by Ferenc Molnar. (Hungary)  
 Masterbuilder, by Henrik Ibsen. (Norway)  
 Milestones, by Arnold Bennett. (England)  
 The Skin Game, by John Galsworthy. (England)  
 The Title, by Arnold Bennett. (England)  
 What Every Woman Knows, by James M. Barrie. (Scotland)  
 Whiteheaded Boy, by Lennox Robinson. (Ireland)

#### FICTION

Abbe Pierre, by Jay William Hudson. (France)  
 Anna Karenina, by Count Leo N. Tolstoy. (Russia)  
 Autobiography of a Chinese Dog, by Mrs. Florence Ayscough. (China)  
 Basquerie, by Mrs. Eleanor Kelly. (Spain)  
 Blind Raftery and His Wife, Hilaria, by Donn Byrne. (Ireland)  
 Boat of Longing, by Ole E. Rolvaag. (Norway)  
 Book of Bette, by Mrs. Eleanor Kelly. (Spain)  
 Bridge of San Luis Rey, by Thornton N. Wilder. (Peru)  
 The Brothers Karamazov, by Feodor M. Dostoevskii. (Russia)  
 Clayhanger, by Arnold Bennett. (England)  
 Crock of Gold, by James Stephens. (Ireland)  
 Deepening Stream, by Mrs. Dorothea (Canfield) Fisher. (France)  
 Dr. Serocold, by Helen Ashton. (England)  
 The Edwardians, by Victoria Sackville-West. (England)  
 Far to Seek, by Mrs. Maud Diver. (India)  
 Feast of Lanterns, by Mrs. Louise Jordan Miln. (China)  
 Forsyte Saga, by John Galsworthy. (England)  
 George and the Crown, by Sheila Kaye-Smith. (England)  
 Good Earth, by Mrs. Pearl Buck. (China)  
 Grand Hotel, by Vicki Baum. (Germany)  
 Great Hunger, by Johan Bojer. (Norway)  
 If Winter Comes, by Arthur S. Hutchinson. (England)  
 Jalna, by Mazo De La Roche. (Canada)  
 Jean-Christophe, by Romain Rolland. (France)  
 Joanna Godden, by Sheila Kaye-Smith. (England)  
 Joseph and His Brethren, by Harold W. Freeman. (England)  
 Kim, by Rudyard Kipling. (India)  
 King of the Khyber Rifles, by Talbot Mundy. (India)  
 Lady of the Decoration, by Rose Macaulay. (Japan)  
 Liliacrona's Home, by Selma O. Lagerlof. (Sweden)  
 Little French Girl, by Anne Douglas Sedgwick. (France)  
 Little Minister, by James M. Barrie. (Scotland)  
 Lonely Furrow, by Mrs. Maud Diver. (India)  
 Magic Mountain, by Thomas Mann. (Switzerland)  
 Magnolia Street, by Louis Golding. (England-Jewish People)

Maria Chapdelaine, by Louis Hemon. (Canada)  
My Lady of the Chinese Courtyard, by Mrs. Elizabeth Cooper. (China)  
My Lady of the Indian Purdah, by Mrs. Elizabeth Cooper. (India)  
Old Countess, by Anne Douglas Sedgwick. (France)  
Passage to India, by Edward M. Forster. (India)  
Plain Tales from the Hills, by Rudyard Kipling. (India)  
Power, by Lion Feuchtwanger. (Germany)  
A Quiet Street, by Michael Ossorgin. (Russia)  
Ring of the Lowenskolds, by Selma O. Lagerlof. (Sweden)  
Rough Hewn, by Mrs. Dorothea (Canfield) Fisher. (France)  
Shadows on the Rock, by Willa Sibert Cather. (Canada)  
Sorrell and Son, by Warwick Deeping. (England)  
Spanish Gold, by George A. Birmingham. (England)  
Square Circle, by Denis George Mackail. (England)  
Sun and Moon, by Vincent H. Gowen. (China)  
Sweden's Best Stories, by Hanna A. Larsen. (Sweden)  
Vagabonds, by Knut Hamsun. (Norway)  
Young Felix, by Frank A. Swinnerton. (England)

NOTE.—A limited number of copies of each of the books on the above lists are included in the book collection of the South Dakota Free Library Commission at Pierre. If they cannot be secured from a local library, they may be borrowed from the Commission as an individual loan for a period of a month.

**Extension Service**  
**South Dakota State College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts**  
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