

The Knowledge Bank at The Ohio State University
Ohio State Engineer

Title: The Bookshelf

Issue Date: Feb-1929

Publisher: Ohio State University, College of Engineering

Citation: Ohio State Engineer, vol. 12, no. 4 (February, 1929), 12, 20-21.

URI: <http://hdl.handle.net/1811/34552>

Appears in Collections: [Ohio State Engineer: Volume 12, no. 4 \(February, 1929\)](#)

THE BOOKSHELF

THE FOURTH MUSKETEER (The Life of Alexander Dumas)

J. Lucas Dubreton

If all great men had led a life as picturesque and as highly colored as that of Alexander Dumas, the biographer's task would be comparatively easy. This life of Dumas reads like a novel in which he himself is the central character, the hero, whose sorrows, troubles, journeys, antics, and business relations are closely followed all through his life.

Dumas' father, whose real name was Davy de la Pailleterie, had been a general in Napoleon's army. It was at the time of his entry into the army that he took his mother's name of Dumas. He was a mulatto, his mother having been a negro, and he married a white girl. He was one of Napoleon's favorite officers until, at the time that Napoleon attempted to make himself dictator, he led a plot against the Emperor and was exiled himself. From then on he was an avowed republican and passed this on to his son.

Dumas, the writer, started life in the little village of Villers-Cotterets and lived alone with his mother. He was an irresponsible youth who did not want to learn to be a scholar or a musician. His mother tried to make him study under a musician and a scholar but he rebelled. At last he secured a job as copying clerk in a notary's office. But staying indoors did not suit him and he sneaked off to go hunting in the woods.

Finally a friend took him to Paris and here he became interested in the theater and drama. He at once set about writing a play. In a short time he was living in Paris, earning his living by copying in the office of the Duke of Orleans and during his leisure hours writing. It took him several years to get one of his plays produced but when it was finally staged it was very successful. The name of the play was *Henry the III*. From then on he devoted his whole time to writing.

The strange part of this story is his method of writing his best known books, *The Three Musketeers*, *Twenty Years After*, etc. He hired someone to write a draft of the story, someone who had attempted to be an author but whose writing was too "dead" to be successful, and then Dumas himself developed the plot and made it a thrilling story. His chief character, *D'Artagnan*, echoes his own personality throughout the series,—well-liked, bluff, influential, very popular with the ladies and at times getting into trouble with them.

Throughout the life of Dumas are thrilling anecdotes and interesting incidences in ample quantities to supply the biographer. J. Lucas Dubreton takes advantage of all these and unfolds a tale that holds the reader's interest as intensely as does a thrilling novel. The reader figuratively lives with Dumas from the beginning to the end of his full life, and tastes with him his sorrows and joys, troubles and escapades, exiles and returns. In all it is a very interesting biography.

—R. M. E.

GODS OF YESTERDAY

By James Warner Bellah

Since the recent aerial debut of the movies (we have in mind "Wings" and "Lilac Time"), this little collection of stories ought to prove highly popular.

Consider "At 2:42 A. M.," which is perhaps the most melodramatic of the book. This short story concerns the adventures of *Smith*, a mechanic in the Royal Air Force. It had been the desire of this man to go over the lines with "Kewpie," the huge bomber, on one of her nocturnal raids. One night his chance came, and the succeeding events, although they make an interesting tale, sound highly improbable.

"Blood," though not on account of the gruesome title, is really gripping. It tells of the brothers *von Beulen*, officers in the Uhlans, what they did and why. Perhaps you will recall this story as it was published in the Saturday Evening Post some months ago.

"The MacGillicuddie," a real rib-tickler, tells of a pious Scot who attempted to bury every German he shot down. We really feel enthusiastic over this story. The sly humor as well as the broad burr of this braw Highlander wafts a gentle scent of the heather to the reader's nostrils.

Bellah has a very interesting history. Around 1914 or 1915 he joined the R. A. F. in Canada and served some time on the front. After the war he returned to the States where he attended the University of Maine. His first work, a long table seriousness was almost juvenile, was published in *College Humor*. His more recent work is indeed worthy of praise.

The undercurrent of morbidness that runs through his stories may be intentional on Bellah's part, although we are inclined to find fault with it. Perhaps he takes life too seriously.—M. L. A.

PASSION, MURDER, AND MYSTERY

By Bruce Graeme

The title of this book is worthy of a Hollywood sub-title scrivener. It fairly reeks with box-office bait. It is rather appropriate and, unlike the cinema title, this title really means what it says.

Mr. Graeme has taken a number of celebrated European crimes and sifted them down to their bare "basic components," as our chemical friends would say.

French crimes predominate in this anthology, not because there is more law-breaking in France, but because French crimes are the most artistic, if we may use the term. Our Gallic friends have a leaning toward the theatrical, and their actions, even in nefarious doings, are more interesting because of this fact than the drab cold-bloodedness of their Anglo-Saxon and Teutonic neighbors.

The so-called "national" crimes we found to contain the most interest. For instance, "The Mystery of Powder B," deals with the operations

(Continued on Page 20)

BOOKSHELF

(Continued from Page 12)

of a German industrial syndicate in France prior to 1914. Several French battleships were blown up mysteriously while lying at anchor in a Mediterranean port. The cause was evidently due to the spontaneous combustion of powder in one of the magazines. Guilt was laid at the door of the munitions manufacturer who happened to be a man operating a factory for the syndicate. It is interesting to note that practically all of the workmen in this plant were Germans, the superintendent himself holding a commission in the *Landwehr*. Then there is a murder mixed in, and the plot begins to thicken.

Then, in the way of intrigue, and wickedness in high places, as Saint Paul once said, we may note the "Letters from Paul to Pierre." Interesting action in the way of selling secret documents back to the government they were pilfered from.

European roguery is the keynote of this book and we wonder if Chicago is really as bad as it is supposed to be.—M. L. A.

THE RUNAWAYS

By George A. Birmingham

Since the establishment of a republic in Andania, the royalist party had had very little to do. The former king was in exile and even the royalists didn't want him back. But they would have enjoyed seeing his son *Benjy*, or officially, *Prince Benedek Rudolph*, on the throne, especially as he was engaged to a very rich heiress. They expected the two to be married and then to finance a revolution with the girl's money, and so get back on the throne.

Now the idea of having a queen for a daughter, and perhaps being called queen-mother herself, appealed very strongly to *Lady Wilmer*. But her daughter *Joyce* had no desire at all to be stuck away in some small country that no one ever heard of. Nor did she intend to part with a large portion of her money in order to get there. But she did love *Benjy*.

The situation in Andania was very similar to this. The medal bedecked *Tzitzin*, Count, Knight, Companion of the Order of the Royal Tamarisk, and Field Marshal of Andania, was all prepared to start the revolution as soon as the money arrived. The prime minister and the representatives of the church were also ready. But *Benjy* did not want to be king. For one thing it was too risky. All the late kings of Andania with the exception of his father had either been shot or hanged, and *Benjy* felt that he was too young to be executed. Nevertheless he was in love.

To complicate matters more each of them thought that the other was in favor of the plans as they had been made by *Joyce's* mother and the emissaries of Andania. The consequence was that shortly before the wedding was to take place first one and then the other disappeared.

One can imagine the limitless possibilities for romance and intrigue when they both choose the same spot, in a lonely part of Ireland, in which to hide from each other.

In this story George A. Birmingham depicts the life of the people in a small, isolated Irish hamlet, and brings enough action into the peaceful district to last its inhabitants a lifetime.

Euclid Dance Studio
 1412 North High Street

New classes formed the first and third Mondays and Fridays of each month.

Two lessons per week. Practice classes Tuesday and Thursday.

Private lessons by appointment.

Order Your Flowers From—
BLOCK'S

The
University Flower Shop
 Corner Sixteenth Avenue and High
 WALnut 1452

DUDLO

*World's Largest
 Manufacturers
 of Fine*

**MAGNET WIRE
 and WINDINGS**

For Every
 Electrical Purpose



*Ask for a copy of the DUDLO folder
 "Wire and Winding Data." It
 will help you in your work*

DUDLO MANUFACTURING COMPANY
 FORT WAYNE, INDIANA
 Division of The General Cable Corp.

Eyes gods would envy

*— you can command them
 in any laboratory*

OPTICAL instruments today continually open new worlds of all-powerful "little things" for scientists to rule over.

In industry this added mastery is becoming more and more important. To develop new processes—to speedily control old—to insure at every step the precision mass production must have, optical science puts at the engineer's command a host of convenient, accurate instruments specialized to the need.

Bausch and Lomb scientists have studied the problems of production in many fields. They are always at your command. Call on them.



BAUSCH & LOMB OPTICAL CO.
 635 St. Paul St., Rochester, N. Y.

**THE
 MOUNT VERNON
 BRIDGE CO.**

Engineers and Manufacturers

of

Iron and Steel Mill Buildings and
 Structural Work, Railway and
 Highway Bridges, Roofs,
 Viaducts, Etc.



Builders of the Structural Steel Work
 in the Ohio Stadium



MT. VERNON, OHIO