

BOOK REVIEWS

CLASSIC RETURNS

BY MICHAEL ROGERS

FICTION

Amis, Martin. **Other People.**

Vintage: Random. 1994. 224p. ISBN 0-679-73589-5. pap. \$10.

Amis (*London Fields*, *LJ* 3/1/90) here weaves a tale of a young woman suffering from amnesia who assumes a new identity while trying to piece together the mystery of her forgotten life.

Anaya, Rudolfo. **Bless Me, Ultima.**

Warner. 1994. c.277p. illus. ISBN 0-446-51783-6. \$19.95.

Besides winning the Premio Quinto Sol national Chicano literary award, this novel of a young boy in New Mexico in the 1940s has sold more than 300,000 copies in paperback since its 1973 debut. Here, however, the book gets the hardcover treatment, with a few illustrations added for color. *LJ*'s reviewer asserted that "the novel has warmth and feeling" (*LJ* 2/1/73) and a place in all fiction collections, especially those serving Chicano populations.

Böll, Heinrich. **And Never Said a Word.**

195p. ISBN 0-8101-1147-0. pap. \$10.95.

Böll, Heinrich. **End of a Mission.**

207p. ISBN 0-8101-1148-9. pap. \$10.95.

Böll, Heinrich. **The Train Was on Time.**

110p. ISBN 0-8101-1123-3. pap. \$9.95.

ea. vol: Northwestern Univ. Pr. (European Classics). 1994. tr. by Leila Vennewitz. F

This triple play from the great German Noble prize winner represents his work from the 1940s, 1950s, and 1960s. Typical of Böll, these novels deal with the themes of love and guilt.

Roth, Philip. **The Professor of Desire.**

Vintage: Random. 1994. 263p. ISBN 0-679-74900-4. pap. \$10.

LJ's reviewer dubbed this volume "an entertaining, mature exploration of the conflicts of passion and reason" (*LJ* 9/15/77). The plot follows protagonist David Kesh, who moves between a life of scholarship and carnal adventure. The paperback publication of Roth's *Operation Shylock* (*LJ* 4/15/93) should generate interest in this earlier novel.

Tarkington, Booth.

The Magnificent Ambersons.

Bantam. 1994. 324p. ISBN 0-553-21430-6. pap. \$4.95.

Though not out of print, this latest offering from Bantam is the least expensive edition currently available. The 1919 Pulitzer Prize-winning novel portrays the decline of the superrich Amberson family.



Reel to real! Director Huston's life was just as adventurous as his films

who act as a metaphor for the old society that crumbled after the Industrial Revolution. All fiction collections should own a copy, and all video collections should include Orson Welles's 1942 film version.

NONFICTION

Böll, Heinrich. **Irish Journal.**

Northwestern Univ. Pr. (European Classics). 1994. 127p. tr. by Leila Vennewitz. ISBN 0-8101-1149-7. pap. \$9.95.

Böll here departs from his usual literary musings to offer his thoughts on Ireland after vacationing there with his family. *LJ*'s reviewer commented that Böll "combines fact with subtle editorializing" when presenting "a series of seemingly unrelated scenes and episodes, all of which finally fit together like the pieces of a puzzle to reveal a harmonious whole" (*LJ* 8/67).

Furbank, P.N. E.M. Forster: **A Life.**

Harcourt. 1994. 619p. photos. index. ISBN 0-15-628651-3. pap. \$16.95.

Thanks to the success of the recent film version of his *Howards End*, Forster is experiencing a resurgence of popularity. Furbank's 1978 two-volume portrait, which is here combined into one, is generally considered the definitive biography. As *LJ*'s

reviewer stated, Furbank's "chief virtue as a biographer lies in his thoroughness, clarity, and attention to detail" (*LJ* 9/15/78).

Gombrich, E.M. **Gombrich on the Renaissance.** Vol. 1: Norm and Form; Vol. 2: Symbolic Images; Vol. 3: The Heritage of Apelles.

Chronicle. 1994. Vol. 1. c.164p. ISBN 0-7148-2380-5; Vol. 2. c.244p. ISBN 0-7148-2381-3; Vol. 3. c.153p. ISBN 0-7148-2011-3. ea. vol: illus. bibliog. index. pap. \$19.95.

FINE ARTS

Published in 1967, 1972, and 1977, respectively, these heavily illustrated volumes offer a detailed analysis of Renaissance art by noted art historian Gombrich. The volumes received praise from critics, such as *LJ*'s, who dubbed them an "important scholarly contribution to the understanding of the period" (*LJ* 2/1/67).

Huston, John. **An Open Book.**

Da Capo. 1994. 389p. photos. index. ISBN 0-306-80573-1. pap. \$14.95.

Famous as a film director par excellence, Huston had a private life that was often as adventurous—and tumultuous—as one of his celluloid creations. Though *LJ*'s reviewer found the book less candid than the title suggests, it will still raise an eyebrow or two and provides "more material for film historians to chew on than any other book about this fascinating man" (*LJ* 9/1/80).

Megquier, Mary Jane. **Apron Full of Gold: The Letters of Mary Jane Megquier from San Francisco 1849-1856.** 2d ed.

Univ. of New Mexico Pr. 1994. c.167p. ed. by Polly Welts Kaufman. illus. ISBN 0-8263-1500-3. pap. \$14.95.

AUTOBIOG

First published in 1949, this collection of letters reveal the life of Megquier, who offers a woman's firsthand account of the San Francisco Gold Rush. For this edition, editor Kaufman has tracked down additional information about Megquier's life after 1856, when the letters cease.

Pound, Ezra. **Diptych Rome-London.**

New Directions, dist. by Norton. (Bibelot). 1994. c.64p. ISBN 0-8112-1268-8. pap. \$5.

POETRY

This volume contains the two lengthy poems "Homage to Sextus Propertius" (1917) and "Huge Selwyn Mauberly" (1920), which Pound combined in a limited edition in 1958 after leaving St. Elizabeth's Hospital, where he was confined for traitorous activities during World War II. Essential for serious poetry collections, especially at this price.

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