

books

Christmas book list has something for all

By Joan Hanauer

United Press International

From the temples of ancient Rome to the world of bowling, from the history of medicine to the history of weeds, there's a gift book for everybody this Christmas. All you need is the money to pay for them and the muscles to lug home these bigger and more beautiful than ever books.

Maybe supernatural help will solve your problems, as in *Faeries*, by Brian Froud and Alan Lee (Abrams, \$14.95). The book is every bit as elvishly delightful as last year's *Gnomes*, by Wil Huygen (Abrams, \$17.50), which remains a best seller a year after publication.

Faeries, like many other newly published coffee table books, can be bought at bargain rates — the price goes up after Christmas.

Abrams, which has long been one of the world's most successful publishers of gorgeous art books, appears to be taking over the fey field as well. It also has added *The Muppet Show Book* to its list, which for \$14.95 offers Kermit, Miss Piggy and the rest of the Jim Henson creatures that appeal to young of all ages. In the same category is the beautifully illustrated Walt Disney's *Treasury of Children's Classics* (Abrams, \$19.95).

From the ridiculous to the sublime, but still with a supernatural flavor, is David Bindman's *The Complete Graphic Works of William Blake* (Putnam's, \$45), one of a number of literary-inspired art books for Christmas giving. It is for serious Blake scholars, offering manuscripts and art, but no color.

Even more expensive, but a bargain at the price, is A.L. Rowse's three volume *The Annotated Shakespeare* (Potter, \$55), which answers fascinating questions about the Bard of Avon you never even asked.

Other literary works that received artistic attention this holi-

day season include Sir James George Frazer's *The Golden Bough*, edited by Mary Douglas (Doubleday, \$14.95), and *The Annotated Jules Verne: From the Earth to the Moon*, by Walter James Miller (Crowell, \$16.95).

Hemingway is having a minirevival, with Peter Buckley's *Ernest* (Dial, \$17.50) presenting a photo biography of the author from handsome youth to the last sad years, while *Hemingway's Paris* is brought to life by Robert E. Gajdusek (Scribner's, \$14.95).

Literary lions aside, there's *The Literary Dog* (Putnam's, \$14.95) in which William E. Maloney and J.C. Soares collect canine illusions from Ecclesiastes Thurber.

All sorts of animals are available in *Great Sculpture of Ancient Greece*, by Pierre Devambaz and *Great Baroque and Rococo Sculpture*, by Maurizio Fagiolo dell'Arco (Morrow, \$25 each) part of this year's cornucopia of art books. Switching from the baroque to the primitive mood is *R.C. Gorman: The Lithographs*, by Doris Born Manthan (Northland, \$35), the reservation born American-Indian artist's depiction of the life of Indian women.

Other individual artists whose work can delight for the holidays include *Sisley*, by Raymond Cogniat (Crown, \$5.95), a bargain in lovely impressionist colors; *Mark Rothko, a Retrospective*, by Diane Waldman (Abrams, \$30) for those who dig rectangles of disembodied color; *Titian*, by David Rosand (Abrams, \$25) for those who prefer Renaissance light and color; *The Arts of David Levine* (Knopf, \$25) ranging from watercolors at Coney Island to wicked caricatures of Richard Nixon and other politicians, and *James McNeill Whistler*, by Hilary Taylor (Putnam, \$22.50) to prove once and for all that Whistler's art was not limited to his mother.

The Art of Glen Loates,

Canada's foremost wildlife artist, is being republished this year (Prentice-Hall, \$35) because snafus in distribution last year limited supplies.

The art of Salvador Dali toasts wine in an alternately outrageous, informative and beautiful book called *The Wines of Dali*, with text by Max Gerard and Louis Crizet, illustrated by Dali (Abrams, \$50). This volume won the Prix Montesquieu de la Sommelierie Francaise as the best wine book of 1977 but it won't win applause from the California winemakers. Leave that to the *Wines of California*, by Robert Lawrence Balzer (Abrams, \$25).

Art doesn't stop with painting and sculpture, as Walter Terry illustrates in *Great Male Dancers of the Ballet* (Anchor, \$10 paper) from Louis IV to Baryshnikov and Dupond, while music is represented by a reissue of Arthur Hutching's stunning *Mozart, The Man, The Musicians* (Schirmer, \$45) and *The Book of Music, A Visual Appreciation*, edited by Gill Rowley (Prentice Hall, \$19.95).

Art and history combine in the magnificent *Rome and Her Empire*, text by Barry Cunliffe (McGraw-Hill, \$50), which makes the reader realize the grandeur that was Rome.

One of the handsomest gift books for armchair historians is *The Times Atlas of World History*, edited by Geoffrey Barraclough (Hammond, \$50), with maps that span the millennia from the origin of man to the 1970s. Some of the map colors are startling, but the book achieves great clarity in its chronology.

Another super history is the *Bettmann Archive Picture History of the World*, by Otto L. Bettmann (Random House, \$19.95) with almost 5,000 pictures of history from caveman to spaceman.

In the special history category, the best-known author is Robert Redford, whose *The Outlaw Trail*

(Grosset & Dunlap, \$19.95) tells the tale of badmen from Montana to the Mexican border with gorgeous photography by Jonathan Blair.

Fireman turned author Dennis Smith has put together the *History of Firefighting in America* (Dial, \$17.50). *The Slaves*, by Susanne Everett (Putnam, \$20) presents an "illustrated history of the monstrous evil" that is cruel, slashing and sometimes hard to take.

Vicarious tourists will enjoy *American Rivers*, by Bill Thomas (Norton, \$30), and the New York Graphic Society's *At Home in the Wild, New England's White Mountains*, text by Brooks Atkinson and W. Kent Olson.

For those who prefer man-made wonders, there's the *National Trust Book of Great Houses of Britain*, by Nigel Nicolson (Godine, \$30), which will make your home seem like a hut. Forget it and enjoy *The Joy of Paris*, by Bernard Herman (Vendome, \$17.95), a splendid look at people as well as places.

Gardening tomes will be growing like weeds on America's coffee tables this year. These include *An Illustrated History of Gardening*, by F.R. Crowell (Houghton Mifflin, \$20), *The Audubon Society Book of Wildflowers*, by Les Line and Walter Henricks Hodge (Abrams, \$37.50) and two from Mayflower, *Flowering Plants of the World*, edited by C.V. Heywood, and *The*

Wild Garden, an Illustrated History of Weeds, by Lys de Bray (\$17.95 and \$19.95 respectively).

Domesticated nature appears among the dog, cat and horse books. For dog-lovers, Macmillan presents *The Dog Catalogue*, by Don Myrus (\$16.95), while McGraw-Hill offers *Standard Guide to Pure-Bred Dogs* (\$24.95). Cat types get *Champion Cats of the World*, by Catherine Ing and Grace Pond (St. Martin's, \$17.50). What horse lover could say neigh to *Great Stud-Farms of the World*, by Monique and Hans Dossenbach and Hans Joachim Kohler (Morrow, \$35).

From sport of kings to *Sports!* by George Plimpton (Abrams, \$29.95), which includes everything from the hulks of football to man made tiny, overwhelmed by the Hawaiian surf. Individual sports in the spotlight include *Jack Nicklaus On & Off the Fairway*, an autobiography with Ken Bowden (Simon & Schuster, \$12.95), and *The Perfect Game, the World of Bowling*, by Herman Weiskopf (Prentice-Hall, \$15.95).

Car buffs will adore the classic beauty of *20 Silver Ghosts, the Incomparable Pre World War I Rolls-Royce*, paintings by Melbourne Brindle, text by Phil May (Doubleday, \$17.95) and be amused by *Auto Ads*, by Jane and Michael Stern (Random House, \$12.95).

Bestsellers

NONFICTION

1. *Mommy Dearest* — Christina Crawford
2. *A Distant Mirror* — Barbara Tuchman
3. *American Caesar* — William Manchester
4. *If Life Is a Bowl of Cherries, What Am I Doing in the Pits* — Erma Bombeck
5. *Gnomes* — Wil Huygen
6. *In Search of History* — Theodore White
7. *The Complete Book of Running* — James Fixx
8. *Jackie Oh!* — Kitty Kelly
9. *The Country Diary of an Edwardian Lady* — Edith Holden
10. *Robert Kennedy and His Times* — Arthur Schlesinger Jr.

FICTION

1. *War and Remembrance* — Herman Wouk
2. *Chesapeake* — James A. Michener
3. *Fools Die* — Mario Puzo
4. *The Far Pavilions* — M. M. Kaye
5. *Evergreen* — Bella Plain
6. *The Empty Copper Sea* — John D. MacDonald
7. *Prelude to Terror* — Helen MacInnes
8. *The Silmarillion* — J. R. R. Tolkien
9. *Bright Flows the River* — Taylor Caldwell
10. *Wifey* — Judy Blume

Albums inspired by movies, TV

By William D. Laffler

United Press International

The Wiz

When L. Frank Baum wrote a story about a little girl named Dorothy and a mountebank who called himself the Wizard of Oz, he may have fashioned one of the greatest fairy tales of all time.

Time is on his side. The Oz books captured the imagination of children through several generations. And the movie version starring Judy Garland has been a perennial favorite on television.

Ray Bolger, the Scarecrow in the Garland movie, said on a talk show some time ago he thought this motion picture would be popular for at least 200 years.

Broadway had to wait almost four decades for the arrival of the Oz tale as a live stage show. It was produced as an all-black musical as "The Wiz," becoming an overnight sensation and beginning a run that was to last for years.

And now "The Wiz" is the sub-

ject of a lively movie starring Diana Ross as Dorothy. And what a cast! Richard Pryor is the crafty Wizard, Lena Horne is Glinda, Nipsy Russell is the Tinman, Michael Jackson is the Scarecrow, and Ted Ross is the Cowardly Lion. Mabel King re-creates her Broadway role of Evilene, the wicked witch.

The original motion picture soundtrack of "The Wiz," (MCA Records MCA2-1400), a two-LP Album, is a major event. In addition to the outstanding cast, the recording involves a roomful of musicians and children's and adult choirs. The fine songs of the Broadway show, especially "Ease on Down the Road," remain in the movie version. Additionally, producer Quincy Jones has created some new material.

As a Broadway show, "The Wiz" won seven Tony Awards, among them "best musical score." The movie may try to pick up as many Oscars.

Sesame Street Fever

Those people on Sesame

Street have come forth with a humorous takeoff on "Saturday Night Fever."

It is a concept album called "Sesame Street Fever" (Sesame Street Records CTW 79005). Joe Raposo and Arthur Shimkin dreamed up the show from an idea by Norman Stiles.

While Raposo is very much in evidence as an arranger, editor and music director, the man responsible for the Muppets, Jim Henson, is in the cast as "Ernie."

The album consists of six numbers, with Robin Gibb, Ernie, The Count and Cookie getting things started with the title tune. Robin Gibb encores later with "Trash." Bert and the Girls have a good time "Doin' the Pigeon," before Ernie and his Rubber Duckie return for another laugh. Cookie Monster and The Girls and Marty and Grover wind the proceedings up with "C is for Cookie" and "Has Anybody Seen My Dog."

This album is a lot of fun — especially the "Doin' the Pigeon" number — and it should win friends both young and old.

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