

ARRIETTY'S NOTES

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*Arrietty comes from
The Borrowers
by Mary Norton*

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Only a few weeks ago we turned back the clocks to standard time and gained an extra hour. But what would it be like to turn back time not just a few hours but hundreds and even thousands of years? This is just what the four books mentioned in this issue of Arrietty's Notes do. Our first, OPERATION TIME SEARCH by Andre Norton, goes back to a pre-historic age.

Ray Osborne was taking pictures of an Indian mound in southern Ohio when there was a shattering shock that erased all trace of him on earth except for his camera. He had unwittingly stumbled into the beam of an experimental time machine that American scientists had trained on the mound. Bewildered and terrified, Ray came to lying in a forest of giant trees. Soon strange hunters captured him and put him on board a galleon-like warship, where he learned from a fellow prisoner, Cho, that they were held by the ruthless Atlanteans who were preparing to annihilate the golden city-state of Mu. Ray and Cho managed to escape from the ship and make their way to Mu, a breathtakingly beautiful city. Even though Ray was received with warmth and honor and was made Cho's sword brother, he longed for his own world. But gradually the longing diminished, for the Murians through telepathy could control thought and mind. Under such control, Ray was sent to the royal palace of Atlantis to free that city-state from its evil, false ruler. The final struggle mounts to an almost unbearable tension as the horror of the controlling power of Atlantis is revealed.

Andre Norton is considered one of the leading writers of science fiction today. Imagination, skill in plotting, taut action, and deep concern for the nature of good and evil are hallmarks of this author's books, among them THE X FACTOR

and VICTORY ON JANUS.

Time next takes us back almost two hundred and thirty years to meet a most remarkable woman in *PLANTATION PATRIOT: A Biography of Eliza Lucas Pinckney*, by Frances Leigh Williams. Eliza's accomplishments would have been outstanding in any day or age, but were the more so in her period--the mid-1700's. In 1738, when Eliza was fifteen, her father, Major George Lucas, stationed in Antigua, moved his family to South Carolina, where he had inherited some land. They settled on the plantation of Wappoo near Charles Town. Since Mrs. Lucas's health continued to be delicate even in the new climate, much of the responsibility of running the house and slaves fell to Eliza. When the Major's leave was canceled and he was ordered to return to Antigua because of the mounting conflict between Spain and England, Eliza was left with the complete management of three plantations. Because of large mortgages and overhead expenses, the Major urged Eliza to try to develop a new crop that could pull them out of financial difficulties. They decided to experiment with indigo. The dye, in great demand and costly, was available only from the French-held island of Montserrat. With determination and spirit Eliza persevered. Her first three crops were lost, and when the fourth was ready for harvesting, there were delays and frustrations. Nevertheless, from the Lucas plantation came the first indigo dye ever produced in this country. It was inferior, and Eliza was to learn that the dyemaker had deliberately made it so, but with the services of another dyemaker, Eliza was able to produce a dye of top quality, and she encouraged other plantation owners to raise indigo. At the age of twenty-one, Eliza married the Honorable Charles Pinckney, a family friend and prominent lawyer and with him played an important part in establishing the affairs of their colony. Their two sons served their country in high positions; Thomas as minister to Great Britain, and Charles as minister to France. In 1791 President George Washington himself cited Eliza Lucas Pinckney as a great planter and a great patriot.

In 1966 Harcourt published *OCEAN PATHFINDER: A Biography of Matthew Fontaine Maury*, by Frances Leigh

Williams. The same careful research that went into this portrayal has gone into the preparation of *PLANTATION PATRIOT*. Using Eliza's letters and journals and the public records of Antigua, London, and Charleston, Frances Leigh Williams creates a vivid picture of plantation life and gives us a delightful portrayal of "a lively spirit and a questing mind."

A *TASTE OF CHAUCER* by Anne Malcolmson was published in 1964, and it was named a Notable Book by the American Library Association. Now Anne Malcolmson has written a similar study, *WILLIAM BLAKE: An Introduction*. Here as in the Chaucer book, there is an excellent introductory essay on Blake as a man and an artist and writer. It gives one a fascinating picture of this remarkable man who devoted most of his life to portraying in drawing, painting, poetry, and prose his own visions and prophecies of eternity, and who, in so doing, became one of the great figures of English art and literature. After the essay there are seven sections, each devoted to selections from Blake's works, such as Songs of Innocence, Poetical Sketches, and from the later prophetic books. For each section Anne Malcolmson has written an introduction, placing the work in relation to the age in which Blake lived. Included are a bibliography and an index of first lines, together with reproductions of eight of Blake's black and white drawings and eight of his paintings in full color.

For many years Anne Malcolmson taught English at the Potomac School in Virginia, where she introduced Blake and Chaucer to her classes. Now, through her books, young people everywhere may share her introductions, marked by great clarity, simplicity, and authenticity. They make a distinguished and lasting contribution for young readers.

About twelve years before William Blake died, the United States and Great Britain became embroiled in the War of 1812. Although the American navy was pitifully small compared to Britain's, it more than made up for lack of ships by its highly trained, courageous men. In *BOUND FOR BATTLE: The Cruise of the U.S. Frigate Essex in the War of 1812* as told by Captain David Porter, edited by Betty Shepard, we meet

one of the officers who fought gallantly for his country. Captain Porter left the United States on October 6, 1812, with orders to meet his squadron commander in the South Atlantic. However, they failed to rendezvous at any of the appointed places, and Captain Porter, realizing he would soon be overpowered by British reinforcements coming into that area, sailed the Essex on a wild and stormy passage around Cape Horn, the first U.S. vessel to take the war into the Pacific. There he proceeded to inflict great damage on British shipping. Finally, on March 28, 1814, the Essex was overpowered in the harbor of Valparaiso and Captain Porter and the other survivors were taken prisoners.

In BOUND FOR BATTLE, young people will meet a brave man and a tough fighter, a strict though fair disciplinarian, and one with insight and humor. As with THE WRECK OF THE WHALESHIP ESSEX: A Narrative Account by Owen Chase, First Mate, edited by Iola Haverstick and Betty Shepard and published in 1965, Captain Porter's journal has been condensed and edited with great care. This is a fascinating fragment of American history.

And finally Arrietty turns her clock ahead just a few days to wish all of you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

THESE TITLES MAY BE CONSIDERED FOR PURCHASE UNDER NDEA AND ESEA

Vital Statistics about the Books Mentioned

Haverstick, Iola, and Shepard, Betty, editors		
THE WRECK OF THE WHALESHIP ESSEX	Ages 12 up	3.00
Malcolmson, Anne, editor		
A TASTE OF CHAUCER	Ages 12 up	3.75; Lib. ed. 3.81
WILLIAM BLAKE: An Introduction	Ages 12 up	4.50
Norton, Andre		
OPERATION TIME SEARCH	Ages 14 up	3.95
VICTORY ON JANUS	Ages 12 up	3.75
THE X FACTOR	Ages 12 up	3.25
Shepard, Betty, editor		
BOUND FOR BATTLE	Ages 12 up	3.95
Williams, Frances Leigh		
OCEAN PATHFINDER	Ages 12 up	3.95
PLANTATION PATRIOT	Ages 12 up	3.95

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