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100 BOOKS ON AMERICAN JOURNALISM

(Revised)

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FOREWORD

The following highly selective annotated bibliography is a revision of the compiler's earlier list with the same title, first published in 1944 as Journalism Series No. 95. Two printings of this little pamphlet have now been exhausted, and the large number of books published in the past five years in the field of journalism make a thoroughgoing revision imperative.

Twenty years ago, invited to speak on Walter Williams' Journalism Week program, I discoursed on "The Best Books for Journalists," only to have the chairman say drily at the close of my address that there was much difference of opinion about what the best books were. Dean Williams was right, and I have never talked about "best books" since. The books on the present list are representative; and they are all, in my opinion, valuable works. Hundreds of good books in the field are not in this list. Perhaps some of them have a better title to a place here than those I name. Let every student make his own list: this is mine.

Nearly half of the following list have been substituted for books removed from my last "100 Books" bibliography. Preference has been given to available books, though some out-of-print volumes have been retained because they seemed to me unusually valuable. Those which I know to be out of print in the Fall of 1948 I have marked with an asterisk (*) after the name and address of the publisher.

The annotations are not necessarily evaluations. Often one cannot evaluate a book fairly short of a long critical essay. But the notes do attempt to give some idea, if the information is not in the title, of what the book contains or what it is valuable for.

The list is limited to what may broadly be called the "editorial side" of the American newspaper. Books on advertising have been omitted, in view of Professor Donald H. Jones's bibliography in that field (Journalism Series No. 116). Works on magazines, on radio, on printing and typography, on public opinion and propaganda, and on business journalism have also been passed by. There is a good list of books on magazines by Dean John E. Drewry in the September, 1948, number of the JOURNALISM QUARTERLY, and one on "Radio Journalism" by an NSRJ committee in the June, 1946 (supplement, September, 1948) number. The admirable Smith, Lasswell and Casey, *Propaganda, Communications, and Public Opinion: A Comprehensive Reference Guide* (University of Minnesota Press, rev. 1946) is well known.

Professor R. E. Wolseley's *The Journalist's Bookshelf* (4th edition, 1946) with annual supplements for 1947 and 1948 (Quill and Scroll

Foundation, Chicago), though selective as to the older books, is a comprehensive presentation of more recent works in the journalism field; entries are annotated in the main divisions. *Editor & Publisher's International Year Book* presents a comprehensive list compiled annually by Professor Roscoe Ellard.

F.L.M.

HISTORY

BAEHR, HARRY W., JR. *The New York Tribune Since the Civil War*. 1926. Dodd, Mead, New York.*

This is a thorough and detailed history of the *Tribune* in Greeley's latter years and under Whitelaw and Ogden Reid. It continues the story where Ralph Ray Fahrney leaves off in his *Horace Greeley and the Tribune* (Torch Press, Cedar Rapids, Iowa,* 1936).

BLEYER, WILLARD GROSVENOR. *Main Currents in the History of American Journalism*. 1927. Houghton Mifflin, Boston.

Though now somewhat out of date, this is a dependable and scholarly work. After 1840, it becomes, in the main, a history of nine prominent papers and their editors.

BRIGHAM, CLARENCE S. *History and Bibliography of American Newspapers, 1690-1820*. 1947. 2 vols. American Antiquarian Society, Worcester, Mass. A superb bibliographical job, the rich detail of which makes it a history as well.

CHAMBERLIN, JOSEPH EDGAR. *The Boston Transcript*. 1930. Houghton Mifflin, Boston.*

A readable book by a man who was for many years one of the best writers on the *Transcript's* staff of good writers. Issued on the paper's centenary and a decade before its death.

DABNEY, THOMAS E. *One Hundred Great Years*. 1944. Louisiana State University Press, Baton Rouge.

A good centennial history of the New Orleans *Times-Picayune*. It may well be correlated with Fayette Copeland's *Kendall of the Picayune* (University of Oklahoma Press, 1943).

DAVIS, ELMER. *History of the New York Times*. 1921. Times, New York.* Well written and valuable, but now in need of a continuation. Slightly promotional in character.

HUDSON, FREDERIC. *Journalism in the United States from 1690 to 1872*. 1873. Harper, New York.*

Hudson was for many years managing editor of the New York *Herald*, and after his retirement he spent his leisure putting the files and scrapbooks and notes on the history of American journalism which he had made a hobby of collecting into his large and rather fragmentary volume. Long out of print, it is not too hard to obtain. Though unreliable, it is of great value for its suggestions and contemporary knowledge. It is a readable book.

HUTTON, BUD, and ROONEY, ANDY. *The Story of the Stars and Stripes*. 1946. Farrar & Rinehart, New York.

A colorful, well told story of the famous GI paper in World War II. What it lacks in completeness and exact data it makes up in good anecdotes and quotes.

JOHNSON, GERALD W.; KENT, FRANK R.; MENCKEN, H. L.; and OWENS, HAMILTON. *The Sunpapers of Baltimore*. 1937. Knopf, New York.*

Most admirable of all the histories of individual newspapers. Readable, reliable, and well oriented.

- JONES, ROBERT W. *Journalism in the United States*. 1947. Dutton, New York.
 Readable history, notable for wide interests, long excerpts, and emphasis on recent developments.
- MOTT, FRANK LUTHER. *American Journalism: A History of Newspapers in the United States Through 250 Years*. 1941. Macmillan, New York.
 Comprehensive and systematic. Revision to date promised in 1950.
- NEVINS, ALLAN. *The Evening Post*. 1922. Boni & Liveright, New York.*
 An excellent, detailed history of the paper now known as the *New York Post*. In admirable fashion, it makes the story of the *Evening Post* a part of the social and political history of its times.
- O'BRIEN, FRANK M. *The Story of the Sun*. 1918. Doran, New York. Revised, 1928. Appleton, New York.*
 Perhaps the most readable of the histories of individual newspapers is this history of the *New York Sun*. Generally reliable, though the chapter on Munsey is inadequate.
- POLLARD, JAMES E. *The Presidents and the Press*. 1947. Macmillan, New York.
 Valuable and painstaking gathering of facts regarding the relations of the Presidents of the United States to the newspapers.
- ROSEWATER, VICTOR. *History of Cooperative Newsgathering in the United States*. 1930. Appleton, New York.*
 A sound and trustworthy work. Naturally, the AP, as the oldest agency, bulks larger in these pages than the others. As history, this is much sounder than Gramling's *AP—The Story of News* (Farrar & Rinehart,* 1940).
- WAUGH, COULTON. *The Comics*. 1947. Macmillan, New York.
 Instructive and faithful chronicle of the growth of the newspaper comic strip, copiously illustrated.

BIOGRAPHY

- BARRETT, JAMES W. *Joseph Pulitzer and His World*. 1941. Vanguard, New York.*
 The latest life of Pulitzer, to which is added a history of the *World* after the death of its great owner. It is questionable whether this is better than Don C. Seitz's *Joseph Pulitzer: His Life and Letters* (Simon & Schuster,* 1924).
- CARLSON, OLIVER. *The Man Who Made News*. 1942. Duell, Sloan & Pearce, New York.
 The best biography of James Gordon Bennett; readable and important.
- CARLSON, OLIVER. *Brisbane: A Candid Biography*. 1937. Stackpole, New York.*
 Intelligent and outspoken study of a famous editor and interesting character.

CARLSON, OLIVER, and BATES, ERNEST SUTHERLAND. *Hearst, Lord of San Simeon*. 1936. Viking, New York.*

Clearly the ablest and soundest of the four biographies of Hearst, but offensive to his admirers.

COCHRAN, NEGLEY D. *E. W. Scripps*. 1933. Harcourt, Bruce, New York.*

More helpful for the facts of Scripps' career than Gilson Gardner's *Lusty Scripps* (Vanguard,* 1932), and probably as good for his character.

DANIELS, JOSEPHUS. *Tar-Heel Editor*. 1939 University of North Carolina Press, Chapel Hill.

In this book, which is the first of a series of five autobiographical volumes, the well known and loved North Carolina editor tells of his beginnings in journalism.

DENNIS, CHARLES H. *Victor Lawson: His Time and His Work*. 1935. University of Chicago Press, Chicago.*

This is a well rounded biography of Lawson, of the "authorized" type, as well as a history of the *Chicago Daily News*. Since it probably gives too little credit to Lawson's great partner, Melville E. Stone, it is well to read Stone's autobiography, *Fifty Years a Journalist*,* in connection with it.

DREWRY, JOHN E., ed. *Post Biographies of Famous Journalists*. 1942. University of Georgia Press, Athens. 1944. Random House, New York. *More Post Biographies*. 1947. University of Georgia Press, Athens.

Each Volume contains 22 of the *Saturday Evening Post's* excellent articles on current journalistic figures and enterprises. All of the pieces in the first volume and 14 of those in the second deal with journalistic personalities. Some of them are stingers.

FOWLER, GENE. *Timber Line*. 1933. Covici-Friede, New York.* 1935. Blue Ribbon Books, Garden City, New York.

This story of Bonfils and Tammen and the *Denver Post* is one of the juiciest of journalistic biographies. If all the stories Fowler tell of these Katzenjammer Twins of journalism are not true, they ought to be.

FRANKLIN, BENJAMIN. *Autobiography*. Many editions.

A classic which everyone should read. The *Autobiography* gives a larger proportion of its pages to Franklin the printer and editor than such full-length biographies as Carl Van Doren's excellent *Benjamin Franklin* (Viking, 1938).

HOWE, E. W. *Plain People*. 1929. Dodd, Mead, New York.*

This is a masterpiece of its kind. Rugged in style, simple and straightforward, *Plain People* gives an insight not only into the author's character, but into the nature of community journalism.

IRWIN, WILL. *The Making of a Reporter*. 1942. Putnam, New York.*

An important book, both for its record of the life of a great reporter, and for the light it throws on various events and personalities.

JOHNSON, GERALD W. *An Honorable Titan: A Biographical Study of Adolph S. Ochs*. 1946. Harpers, New York.

Comparatively uncritical, this is nevertheless a helpful study of a powerful figure in American journalism at the turn of the century.

MCKELWAY, ST. CLAIR. *Gossip: The Life and Times of Walter Winchell*. 1940. Viking, New York.*

A somewhat expanded version of a serial "profile" of Winchell originally published in the *New Yorker*. A severe appraisal.

MENCKEN, H. L. *Newspaper Days*. 1941. Knopf, New York. Included also in the omnibus *The Days of H. L. Mencken* (Knopf 1947).

The second volume in the Mencken autobiography, covering the early years in Baltimore. All of it is interesting, and some of it is vigorous Menckonian.

MILLER, WEBB. *I Found No Peace*. 1936. Simon & Schuster, New York.*

Miller's subtle and sensitive personality and his enviable experience as a foreign correspondent combine to make this a top-ranking book. A memorable chapter giving the history of the "false armistice" is contributed by Roy Howard.

NIXON, RAYMOND B. *Henry W. Grady: Spokesman of the New South*. 1943. Knopf, New York.

A well rounded, readable, intelligent biography of a great reporter and editor.

OLDER, FREMONT. *My Own Story*. 1919. Call Publishing Co., San Francisco. 1926. Macmillan, New York.*

Evelyn Wells' biography of Older is better rounded, but nothing could equal the man's own story of his great crusade against California forces of corruption. The latter half of the book, while interesting and socially significant, is essentially another story.

ROSS, ISHBEL. *Ladies of the Press*. 1936. Harper, New York.*

Skilfully told stories of the earlier woman journalists; but when it comes to contemporaries, there are too many of them and they are treated too uncritically.

STEFFENS, LINCOLN. *Autobiography*. 1931. Harcourt, Brace, New York. 2 vols., 1 vol.

One of the greatest autobiographies of journalists. Steffens' story is interesting, and some of his greatest ideas have profound social significance.

STODDARD, HENRY LUTHER. *Horace Greeley, Printer, Editor, Crusader*. 1946. Putnam, New York.

The latest, but not yet the definitive, life of Greeley. It adds to familiar materials letters from Margaret Fuller relating to the Greeleys' domestic affairs. On the whole, it is probably not a better biography than Doc C. Seitz's *Horace Greeley* (Bobbs-Merrill,* 1926).

STONE, CANDACE. *Dana and the Sun*. 1938. Dodd, Mead, New York.*

Quite the best of the several biographies of Dana; critical and dependable.

SULLIVAN, MARK. *The Education of an American*. 1938. Doubleday, Doran, New York.*

The varied career of the author, and his feeling for social and political background, make this a good book.

VAN DEUSEN, GLYNDON G. *Thurlow Weed, Wizard of the Lobby*. 1947. Little, Brown, Boston.

While the author properly gives much attention to Weed's political activities, his newspaper life is not slighted.

WHITE, WILLIAM ALLEN. *The Autobiography of William Allen White*. 1946. Macmillan, New York.

The fact that this is a "must" for students of American journalism should not discourage the reading of Walter Johnson's excellent *William Allen White's America* (Holt, 1947).

REPORTING

CLAYTON, CHARLES C. *Newspaper Reporting Today*. 1947. Odyssey, New York.

A practical guide to modern reporting by a St. Louis *Globe-Democrat* editor.

GREENE, WARD. *Star Reporters and 34 of Their Stories*. 1948. Random House, New York.

An interesting and varied anthology from H. M. Stanley to Westbrook Pegler, with brief essays on each reporter.

HUGHES, HELEN MACGILL. *News and the Human Interest Story*. 1940. University of Chicago Press, Chicago.

A suggestive, if not always sound, sociological analysis of "human interest" news, with historical backgrounds.

MACDOUGALL, CURTIS D. *Interpretative Reporting*. 1938. Macmillan, New York.

This is a revision of the author's earlier *College Course in Reporting for Beginners*. It is probably the leading textbook in reporting. It is well ordered and comprehensive.

MARSH, IRVING T., AND EHRE, EDWARD, eds. *Best Sports Stories; 1948 Edition*. 1947. Dutton; New York.

The fourth annual edition of this collection of carefully chosen news, feature, and magazine sports stories, with a collection of best sports pictures and sports data for the year.

MOTT, FRANK LUTHER, ed. *Headlining America*. 1940. Dryden, New York.

This is the fourth book in a series of which the first and second (*News Stories of 1933* and *News Stories of 1934*) were published by the Clio Press, Iowa City,* and the third was *Headlining America, 1937* (Houghton Mifflin, Boston*). It is not claimed that the news stories included are the best, though all are good; they are representative of the best in the various fields.

NEAL, ROBERT M. *News Gathering and News Writing*. 1940. Dryden, New York.

A pleasant and realistic book for the new reporter or for the man who wants a refresher course. Revision early in 1949.

OVERSEAS PRESS CLUB. *Deadline Delayed*. 1947. Dutton, New York.

Twenty-two stories by foreign correspondents, which for one reason or another, were not published when originally written. *Eye Witness* (Alliance,* 1940) was an earlier Overseas Press Club book. *We Saw It Happen* (Simon & Schuster,* 1938, Triangle Books, 1941) is by New York Times foreign correspondents, and *We Cover the World* (Harcourt,* 1937) was another prewar collection.

ALLEN, JOHN E. *Newspaper Designing*. 1947. Harper, New York.

The last book, posthumously published, of an authority on newspaper typography. It is listed here as an aid to the study of make-up.

BASTIAN, GEORGE C., and CASE, LELAND D. *Editing the Day's News*. 1943. Macmillan, New York.

At or near the top of the list of books on editing. First issued by Bastian alone in 1924; revised by Case in 1932 and 1943.

GARST, ROBERT E., and BERNSTEIN, THEODORE M. *Headlines and Deadlines*. 1933, revised 1940. Columbia University Press, New York.

Two New York Times editors here set forth editing techniques as practiced by the best metropolitan papers.

HYDE, GRANT MILNOR. *Newspaper Handbook*. 1941. Appleton-Century, New York.

First issued in 1921 as *Handbook for Newspaper Workers* (revised 1926), this is a tried and excellent manual.

NEAL, ROBERT M. *Editing the Small City Daily*. 1939, revised 1946. Prentice-Hall, New York.

This is an interesting and useful textbook, both for college study and as a professional refresher.

RADDER, NORMAN J., and STEMPEL, JOHN E. *Newspaper Editing, Make-up and Headlines*. 1942. McGraw-Hill, New York.

First issued by Radder in 1924 as *Newspaper Make-up and Headlines*, this is an admirable text, especially for advanced students.

FLESCHE, RUDOLF. *The Art of Plain Talk*. 1946. Harpers, New York.

Although its formula for "easy" style is already superseded, this is still a necessary book for newspaper writers and editors.

EDITORIALS

BUSH, CHILTON R. *Editorial Thinking and Writing*. 1932. Appleton, New York.*

A valuable book; perhaps less a text or manual than a book for required reading for students and professionals.

[DANA, CHARLES A., and STAFF.] *Casual Essays of the Sun*. 1905. Cooke, New York.*

Long out of print but sometimes procurable, this is interesting and instructive as a collection of the bright and often amusing editorials on every-day topics which brought distinction to the New York *Sun's* editorial page in the closing decades of the nineteenth century.

HEATON, JOHN L., *Cobb of "The World."* 1924. Dutton, New York.*

A collection of Frank Cobb's editorials.

MAHIN, HELEN OGDEN, ed. *The Editor and His People*. 1924. Macmillan, New York.*

An excellent collection of the editorials of William Allen White, earlier but in some ways preferable to Russell H. Fitzgibbon's *Forty Years on Main Street* (Farrar & Rinehart,* 1937).

NEVINS, ALLAN. *American Press Opinion*. 1928. Houghton Mifflin, Boston.*

A large collection of some of the most important and representative editorials in American newspapers, 1785-1927.

WALDROP, A. GAYLE. *Editor and Editorial Writer*. 1948. Rinehart, New York.

The best textbook on editorial writing now in the field. Comprehensive and stimulating.

FEATURES

BIRD, GEORGE L. *Article Writing and Marketing*. 1948. Rinehart, New York.

A practical, suggestive, sound book for college use.

BRENNECKE, ERNEST, JR., and CLARK, DONALD L. *Magazine Article Writing*. 1931, revised 1942. Macmillan, New York.

Probably the best book on the subject. The selling side is under-emphasized, though the revision is better than the first edition in that respect.

GUNDELL, GLENN, ed. *Writing—From Idea to Printed Page*. 1949. Doubleday, New York.

Against all rules, this entry is inserted while the book is in press and before publication. This valuable contribution to teaching materials consists of presentations of actual plans, preliminary outlines, revisions, etc., of three articles, two fiction stories, and one picture lay-out, designed for the *Saturday Evening Post*, together with the finished job in each case.

PATTERSON, HELEN M. *Writing and Selling Special Feature Articles*. 1939. Prentice-Hall, New York.

Miss Patterson takes a practical and realistic point of view, relying much on formulas.

PHOTO-JOURNALISM

CAPA, ROBERT. *Slightly Out of Focus*. 1947. Holt, New York.

Lively account of the experiences of a war photographer of great intelligence and skill, with impressive illustrations.

- MICH, DANIEL D., and EBERMAN, EDWIN. *The Technique of the Picture Story*. 1945. McGraw-Hill, New York.
Suggestive chapters on photography and picture editing by editors of *Look*.
- VITRAY, LAURA; MILLS, JOHN, JR.; ELLARD, ROSCOE. *Pictorial Journalism*. 1939. McGraw-Hill, New York.
Ten years old, this is still probably the best all-around, comprehensive book in the field.
- WHITING, JOHN R. *Photography Is a Language*. 1947. Ziff-Davis, Chicago.
A thoughtful and suggestive series of chapters for the beginner in photography.
- MORGAN, WILLARD D., and LESTER, HENRY M. *Graphic Graflex Photography*. 1944, revised 1948. Authors.
Indispensable technical guide for Graflex, users, and valuable for all news photographers.

LAW

- ARTHUR, WILLIAM R., and CROSMAN, RALPH L. *The Law of Newspapers*. 1928, revised 1940.
A standard text, improved in its revision. More than a case book, this volume depends much upon exposition.
- CHAFEE, ZECHARIAH, JR. *Government and Mass Communications*. 2 vols. 1947. University of Chicago Press, Chicago.
The vice-chairman of the Luce Commission on Freedom of the Press and Harvard law professor offers a readable and sound treatise on suppression, encouragement, and participation by government in relation to communications.
- GERALD, J. EDWARD. *The Press and the Constitution, 1931-1947*. 1948. University of Minnesota Press, Minneapolis.
Scholarly review of the cases involving communications decided by the Supreme Court through sixteen years.
- HALE, WILLIAM G., *Law of the Press*. 1923, revised 1933, 1948. West, St. Paul.
A case book of the law concerning newspapers. In the new revision, eleven new cases have been added, and seven included in the 1933 edition have been dropped.
- SIEBERT, FREDERICK S. *The Rights and Privileges of the Press*. 1934. Appleton-Century, New York.
An admirable journalistic text on the law of the press. It covers the field, is succinct and adequate.

WEEKLIES

- ANDERSON, SHERWOOD. *Hello Towns!* 1929. Liveright, New York.*
Late great writer of fiction here gathered stories, items, and editorials from the Marion, Virginia, weeklies which he edited in the latter years of his life.

BARNHART, THOMAS F. *Weekly Newspaper Makeup and Typography*. 1949. University of Minnesota Press, Minneapolis.

In press as this bibliography is compiled, Professor Barnhart's new book is listed here on faith.

HOUGH, HENRY BEETLE. *Country Editor*. 1940. Doubleday, New York.*

The story of the *Vineyard Gazette*, published on the island of Martha's Vineyard. A fine piece of writing, and a good portrayal of the personnel and conditions of a country weekly office and community.

SMITH, C. R. F., and RHEUARK, KATHRYN M. *Management of Newspaper Correspondents*. (Journalism Monographs No. 3.) 1944. Louisiana State University Press, Baton Rouge.

A treatise and manual for community newspaper editors, valuable for students in that field.

HIGH SCHOOL JOURNALISM

DALE, EDGAR. *How to Read a Newspaper*. 1941. Scott, Foresman, Chicago.

Though it was designed for high school students, this book is worth the time of anyone who wishes a quick, succinct view of the American newspaper.

ENGLISH, EARL. *Exercises in Journalism*. 1944. Iowa State College Press, Ames.

Called *Exercises in High School Journalism* in the first edition (1939), this popular work-book is practical, varied, and well printed. A revision is promised in 1949 by Dr. English and Clarence Hach.

HOFFMAN, U. N. *Student Journalism*. 1940, revised 1946. Laurel Bookcraft, Seattle, Wash.

One of the best of several textbooks on high school journalism. The first edition (1934) was called *See, Know and Tell—Well*.

SPEARS, HAROLD, and LAWSHE, C. H., JR. *High School Journalism*. 1939. Macmillan, New York.

Full and comprehensive, illustrated, this is one of the two or three best books in its field.

APPRAISALS

AMERICAN SOCIETY OF NEWSPAPER EDITORS. *Problems of Journalism: Proceedings of the A. S. N. E.* 1948. A. S. N. E., Washington, D. C.

The annual proceedings of this society, the first of which was for 1923, present varied and significant opinions on the problems of American journalism by leading editors.

COMMISSION ON FREEDOM OF THE PRESS. *A Free and Responsible Press: A General Report on Mass Communication—Newspapers, Radio, Motion Pictures, Magazines, and Books*. 1947. University of Chicago Press, Chicago.

This report of only 106 pages (exclusive of Professor Hocking's postscript, which

forms an appendix) should be read by everyone interested in the American press. Much of it is devoted to the statement of principles with which all agree, and all of it is worthy of attention as the collective opinion of a group of wise and learned men.

HERZBERG, JOSEPH G., ed. *Late City Edition*. 1947. Holt, New York.

A collection of articles by members of the staff of the New York *Herald Tribune* describing the work and functions of the various departments of a great metropolitan newspaper. Though it is, in general, descriptive rather than critical, this book throws no little light on journalistic problems.

RATHBONE, H. B., ed. *Dynamic Journalism: Twelve Don R. Mellett Memorial Lectures*. 1941. Don R. Mellett Memorial Foundation, Department of Journalism, New York University, New York.

Though uneven in quality, these lectures as a whole have much value and significance. Those delivered since 1940 are obtainable separately from New York University.

SVIRSKY, LEON, ed. *Your Newspaper: Blueprint for a Better Press*. 1947. Macmillan, New York.

This collection of essays by nine Nieman Fellows does not live up to its ambitious subtitle, but many of the suggestions which its authors gather together are valid.

VILLARD, OSWALD GARRISON. *The Disappearing Daily: Chapters in American Newspaper Evolution*. 1944. Knopf, New York.

Villard has long been an informed critic of the American press. His opinions are often debatable, but in these diverse chapters on problems, personalities, and newspapers he is always an honest, if sometimes severe, commentator.

WILLEY, MALCOLM W., and CASEY, RALPH D., eds. *The Press in the Contemporary Scene*. January, 1942, issue of the *Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*, Philadelphia.

A series of 26 authoritative articles constituting the best survey of the American press at a given time ever published. The volume is supplied in either paper or cloth binding.

FICTION

ADAMS, SAMUEL HOPKINS. *The Clarion*. 1914. Houghton, Mifflin, Boston.*

The author was connected with *Collier's* when that periodical was conducting a crusade against the evils of patent medicines; this novel is a part of that crusade. It is still interesting, though Adams has never been a first-rate novelist.

COBB, IRVIN S. *Alias Ben Alibi*. 1925. Doran, New York. 1929. Grosset & Dunlap, New York.*

Short stories of a fabulous city editor, Ben Ali Crisp, whom the author uses as a figure on whom to center half the tall tales familiar to city-room raconteurs these many years.

DAVIS, CLYDE BRION. *"The Great American Novel."* 1938. Farrar & Rinehart, New York.*

This is a story of failure, narrated by the diary method. It has sincerity, and rather more interest in the events seen and covered by the journalist-hero than in the personalities of the story.

HECHT, BEN, and MACARTHUR, CHARLES. *The Front Page.* 1928. Covici-Friede, New York.*

This is a famous play—a rowdy, fast-moving melodrama. Though true to a certain time and place in journalism, it is, of course, false as a general portrayal of newspaper life.

[MELLETT, JOHN C.] *High Ground.* 1928. Bobbs-Merrill, Indianapolis.*

The author, a brother of the martyred Don Mellett, signed his own name to the inferior novel *Ink*, but used the pen-name "Jonathan Brooks" for this one. Though not a great novel, *High Ground* is sincere and employs an especially interesting technique with some success. The hero is a small-city editor of high ideals.

SELBY, JOHN. *Sam.* Farrar & Rinehart, New York.*

Another study of a small-city editor—this time a rugged and eccentric character. One of the better recent novels on a journalistic theme.

SMITH, HENRY JUSTIN. *Deadlines.* 1922. Covici-McGee, Chicago. Also, with the same author's *Josslyn*, in *Extra! Extra!* published by Sterling North, Chicago, 1934.

A series of sketches of life in the city room—as a matter of fact, that of the Chicago *Daily News*. The chapter called "The Day" is one of the best pieces ever written about its phase of American journalism.

WHITE, WILLIAM ALLEN. *In Our Town.* 1906. Century, New York.

A series of short stories showing life in a small town as seen from the newspaper office. Admirable stories, but the journalistic angle is usually unimportant.

WILLIAMS, BEN AMES. *Splendor.* 1927. Dutton, New York.

One of the best—perhaps the very best—of novels based on the life of an American newspaperman. It is long, and some readers find it dull until they are gripped by the sincere story after reading the first third of it. Realistic, honest, competent.

