

ALEXANDER L. CROSBY

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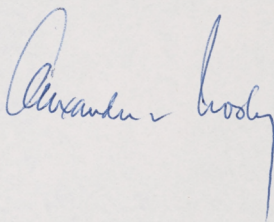
11 April 1967

Dear Miss Gilpin,

I enclose a copy of a review of The Rio Grande from Scholastic Teacher. Last December the book was included in Scientific American's annual review of best books for children.

Your photographs, and your counsel, made the difference between an ordinary book and a really good one.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Alexander L. Crosby". The signature is written in a cursive style, with the first name "Alexander" and the last name "Crosby" clearly legible.

GILBERT BOND

35% COTTON FIBRE

U.S.A.



Illustration by Lois Lenski, from *High-Rise Secret* (Lippincott)

"Provides fine social studies background . . ."

Proverbs of Many Nations, compiled and illus. by Emery Kelen. Lothrop, \$3.70, 63 pp.

As the introduction states, "A proverb is age-old wisdom stated in a few words." Because proverbs offer such fine chances to involve others in interpretation of meaning, they are particularly fitting to use in classrooms. Each page in the book contains three or more proverbs from different countries which have been grouped under a heading. One good way to use the book would be to list the countries from which the proverbs come on the chalkboard, read the proverbs to the class and see if proverbs and countries can be matched. (It is surprising how much geography and history are contained in a proverb!) Another good use of the book would be to put on the chalkboard some of the proverbs that contain a common theme, have the boys and girls read them and see if they can state the idea or generalization which all the proverbs contain. Their statement could then be compared with the heading in the book. It might also be used to stimulate boys and girls to write some proverbs of their own.—R.McD. (4-5)

The Old Zion, by William Mayne. Illus. by Margery Gill. Dutton, \$3.95, 64 pp.

The flavor and rhythm of life on a South Pacific island are wittily and warmly captured in this offbeat tale of Beni and Tui and their father George, whose philosophy is, "Work does not grow bigger if it is left a day. Let the work starve, I say." Yet George moves quickly when the men of neighboring Ha'apai begin to put up a wooden church—with a steeple—for the Queen. Letting his farm work "stave," he organizes the whole town to pick up and carry their homemade church, the Old Zion, to a new place of honor in the village. William Mayne's humorous, original style is marvelous for reading

aloud. His book also provides fine social studies background on the South Pacific area. The illustrations are excellent; the type is clear and large.—A.M. (3-5)

Know Your Rivers of the World, by Philip S. Egan. Illus. by Seymour Fleishman. Rand McNally, \$1.95, 80 pp.

This book will be useful to teachers of social studies as well as to children. The table of contents shows excellent organization of its material by continents, with maps, facts, and many photographs. Although 45 rivers are covered in only 71 pages, the author has given a surprisingly large amount of interesting geographical and historical information for each river. Added dividends: a good index, and a separate listing of the world's principal rivers. A serious drawback is the poor binding of paper-covered boards!—H.L.H. (3-6)

The Rio Grande, by Alexander L. Crosby. Maps by Fred Kliem. Garrard, \$2.19, 96 pp.

The Rio Grande: Life for the Desert is one of a series, "Rivers of the World," edited by Nancy Larrick, designed to appeal to youngsters in grades 4 to 7. In this slim volume, the story of the 1,885-mile-long river, which starts high in the Colorado Rockies and winds slowly to the Gulf of Mexico, dramatically unfolds. The text is enhanced by striking black-and-white photographs and reproductions of old prints and engravings and maps created for this project. The author's account of his trips and experiences along the river add a personal touch which is always pleasing to the young reader. If the other 15 volumes of this series are as attractive and informative as this, the complete set most certainly deserves space on the elementary library shelves.—C.C. (4-7)

High-Rise Secret, written and illus. by Lois Lenski. Lippincott, \$3.50, 152 pp.

In the current rush to make up for a past dearth of stories about the city child, a few good books have been written and, alas, a whole wagonload of tedious, labored, color-me-brown stories keeps appearing. One of the good ones—good because the characters and the action are realistic and maintain their realism throughout the book—is Lois Lenski's newest book in her "Roundabout America" series. It concerns the Murphys, who move from a dreary basement to an 11th-floor apartment of a high-rise project for low-income families. "No pets allowed." Naturally Peggy Murphy befriends a kitten, thereby complicating the lives of all around her. Without being brutal, Miss Lenski writes of the problems of the children, parents, and janitors confined in treeless areas where 10 automatic washers serve 600 families, police protection is inadequate, and everyone hears family squabbles through thin walls. Although the children are the most important characters, the adults are well defined, showing a good cross section of the types of people that make up this world of cliff dwellers. Some problems are solved (the kitten), some remain to be solved (vandalism); but the book ends on a positive note: "There is always the view. . . . You can see the Peace Bridge and all of Canada." The author's own illustrations add to this sensitive story. A must book for understanding inherent problems in city renewal.—H.E.H. (3-5)

Sea Beach Express, by George Panetta. Illus. by Emily McCully. Harper, \$3.95, 64 pp.

Had this book been published as an adult short story, perhaps it would have given some parents food for thought. As a children's book it is very depressing. The plot is about an Italian boy