

World-Minded Heroes

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IN HIS popular book on *Peace of Mind* Joshua L. Liebman maintains that "Man loses his sense of direction when the compass of his soul is not magnetized by some great human star within the orbit of his experience." Similarly, it might be said that children do not develop a proper sense of direction until the compasses of their souls are magnetized by some worthwhile heroes within the range of their understanding.

Psychologists and educators are agreed that children need heroes. In their early years in school they will choose them from among the persons whom they meet. But in the later years of elementary school and in the junior high school boys and girls often select as their models persons whom they have never met and will probably never see, but about whom they have heard or read.

Social studies teachers have a responsibility to introduce children to persons who are world-minded, both through personal contacts and through biography. This is one of the many ways of helping children to gain a world-view and to set as one of their own personal goals the development of world-mindedness.

Such persons should be primarily men and women who have translated into action their ideal of world community or human brotherhood. They should be persons who have achieved a large degree of self-integration and have become experts in democratic human relations. They should be men and women who have helped in some way to bring greater freedom and greater happiness to humanity. In brief, they should be citizens of the world.

Fortunately, there are a few biographies of such persons available for the upper elementary school

boys and girls, and several such biographies available for junior high school readers. This article will mention some of these books. But there is likewise a real need for many more biographies of world-minded men and women suitable for boys and girls, particularly on such persons as Ralph Bunche, Toyohiko Kagawa, Trygve Lie, Thomas Masaryk, Hideyo Noguchi, Domingo Sarmiento, James Yen, Mathilda Wrede, and a host of others. Perhaps some of the readers of this article will eventually produce biographies on these and other persons for use by children.

There is a special need for biographies of such world-minded persons from the Near and Middle East, from Africa, from Southeast Asia and the Pacific, and from Latin America. There are more such persons from Europe and the United States, and more recently from Asia, who are treated in juvenile biographies, but more are needed.

In reading and discussing such citizens of the world, care should be taken to show that these persons were once boys and girls, similar in most respects to the boys and girls who are reading about them. Later they became great men and women, but as Felix Adler pointed out in his book, *Our Part In This World*, "The great man is he who towers by half an inch above the heads of the crowd," or as Baldwin phrased it, "The greatest men on earth are men who think as I do, but deeper; and see the real as I do but clearer; who work to the goal that I do, but faster; and serve humanity as I do, but better." Not all citizens of the world were geniuses; many of them saw a goal towards which they wished to work and channeled all their energy and ability to fulfill that purpose.

It is conceivable that a few of these men and women will be military heroes such as Bolivar or San Martin, but most teachers will probably agree that the day of military exploits as a means of serving humanity is past and that these citizens of the world should be largely heroes of peace.

Who, then, are some of the world-minded men and women whom children should know? What are some of the biographies which are now available on them? The remainder of this article will deal with these two questions, treating these topics by large geographical areas of the world.

"Unless otherwise indicated," the author writes, "books listed in this article are primarily for junior high school readers." Dr. Kenworthy is an associate professor of education at Brooklyn College, and the author of a recently-published book, *World Horizons for Teachers*, as well as of a number of articles and bibliographies dealing with education for international understanding.

COLLECTIVE BIOGRAPHIES

ALTHOUGH out of print, the two books by Robert Bartlett on *They Dared To Live* and *They Did Something About It* (Association Press, 1941 and 1939) contain excellent brief biographies of world heroes, suitable for junior high school readers. It is to be hoped that they will be found on school or local library shelves and will be used by teachers. Joseph Cohen and Will Scarlet's *Modern Pioneers* (Allyn and Bacon, 1932) contains the stories of Lindbergh, Curie, Steinmetz, Maude Adams and Goethals, and is suitable for grades 6 to 8. Joseph Cottler and Haymn Jaffe's *Heroes of Civilization* (Little, Brown and Co., 1931) contains many brief biographies written for grades 5 to 9 on such persons as Amundsen, Barton, Curie, Einstein, Gorgas, Livingston, and Pasteur. The school edition is inexpensive and a valuable volume. Although too difficult for most boys and girls, mention should be made nevertheless of Paul de Kruif's *Hunger Fighters, Men Against Death, and Microbe Hunters* (Harcourt, Brace & Co.) for especially good readers interested in world-minded scientists. The Friendship Press has published a series of pamphlets of 24 pages each on 40 men and women in all parts of the world who have had service to mankind as their chief aim in life. Although many of these are Christian missionaries, they will be suitable for some junior high school readers in some schools. The Health Hero series distributed free of charge by the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company can be used with effect in the upper elementary grades and in junior high school classes. The filmstrips based on these booklets are also obtainable free of charge and are quite popular with children. Other books of collective biography will be mentioned in the remaining sections of this article.

UNITED STATES

IT IS difficult to decide who the world-minded Americans are, but most people would probably include Jane Addams, Clara Barton, Albert Einstein, William Gorgas, George Washington Goethals, Walter Reed, Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt, and Woodrow Wilson. Some might also include such earlier figures as Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Jefferson, and Abraham Lincoln, while a case could be made for such figures as Burbank, Carnegie, Edison, and Ford if the sole criteria is benefit to mankind. However, this list is limited to the more recent figures and to those definitely associated with other lands and peoples in one way or another.

Biographies of those persons include the following:

- Howard Fast. *Goethals and the Panama Canal*. Messner, 1942.
 Alden Hatch. *Woodrow Wilson: A Biography For Young People*. Henry Holt & Co., 1947.
 Alden Hatch. *Young Willkie*. Harcourt, Brace & Co., 1944.
 Clara Judson. *Soldier Doctor: The Story of William Gorgas*. Charles Scribner's Sons, 1942.
 Rita H. Kleeman. *Young Franklin Roosevelt*. Messner, 1946.
 Sally Knapp. *Eleanor Roosevelt*. Thomas Y. Crowell Co., 1949.
 Elma E. Levinger. *Albert Einstein*. Messner, 1949.
 Helen A. Monsell. *Woodrow Wilson, Boy President*. Bobbs-Merrill, 1950. (For ages 6-9)
 Jeannette C. Nolan. *Story of Clara Barton of the Red Cross*. Messner, 1941.
 M. M. Pace. *Clara Barton*. Charles Scribner's Sons, 1941. (Grades 4-8)
 Catherine Owens Peace. *Albert Einstein: A Biography For Young People*. Henry Holt & Co., 1949.
 Augusta Stevenson. *Clara Barton, Girl Nurse*. Bobbs-Merrill, 1946.
 Jean B. Wagoner. *Jane Addams: Little Lame Girl*. Bobbs-Merrill, 1944.
 Winifred E. Wise. *Jane Addams of Hull House*. Harcourt, Brace & Co., 1935.
 L. N. Wood. *Walter Reed, Doctor In Uniform*. Messner, 1943.

EUROPE

IT IS even more difficult to choose those persons from Europe who have been world-minded and who might appeal to American boys and girls. Certainly the Curies, Sir Wilfred Grenfell, David Livingston, Fridtjof Nansen, Florence Nightingale, Louis Pasteur, and Albert Schweitzer would be included in almost any list. Biographies for elementary and junior high school readers on these persons are listed below. Thomas Masaryk was certainly one of the great internationalists of his time but no good biography of him exists for younger readers. The same might be said for Albert Thomas, the first secretary-general of the International Labor Office and for Mathilda Wrede, Finnish prison reform leader. Henri Dunant, founder of the Red Cross might be included were it not for the tragic ending of his life. Here, then, are some of the existing biographies of world-minded heroes who hailed from Europe:

- Helen Acker. *Four Sons of Norway*. Nelson, 1948. Includes chapter on Nansen. (Grades 5-7)
 Francis E. Benz. *Pasteur, Knight of the Laboratory*. Dodd, Mead & Co., 1938.
 Eve Curie. *Madame Curie, A Biography*. Garden City, 1937.
 Jeannette Eaton. *David Livingston, Foe of Darkness*. Morrow, 1947.
 Joseph Gollomb. *Albert Schweitzer: Genius in the Jungle*. Vanguard, 1949.

- Anna G. Hall. *Nansen*. Viking Press, 1940.
 J. C. Nolan. *Florence Nightingale*. Messner, 1946.
 L. E. Richards. *Florence Nightingale*. Appleton-Century-Crofts, Inc., 1931.
 Fullerton L. Waldo. *With Grenfell on the Labrador*. Revell, 1920.
 Dillon Wallace. *Story of Grenfell of the Labrador*. Revell, 1922.
 Laura N. Wood. *Louis Pasteur*. Messner, 1948.

AFRICA AND THE NEAR EAST

BIOGRAPHIES of such world-minded persons from Africa and the Near and Middle East are very rare. One might conceivably include the books mentioned above on Livingston and Schweitzer, but they are really Europeans despite their long sojourns in Africa.

Biographies for young readers on James K. Aggrey of the Gold Coast and Jan Smuts of the Union of South Africa are needed as well as on others from Africa and the Near and Middle East. The only two books which the writer can recommend for this vast area are the following: Rachel Baker. *Chaim Weizman: Builder of a Nation*. Messner, 1950.
 Ruth Seabury. *Daughter of Africa*. Pilgrim Press, 1945.

ASIA

AMONG the men and women from Asia who might be included in any list of world-minded persons would be Gandhi, Kagawa, Nehru, Noguchi, Sun Yat Sen, Tagore, and James Yen. On other figures there would probably be considerable controversy. Biographies of such Asians as we have just mentioned are beginning to appear, but as yet there are no biographies for younger readers on Kagawa and Tagore, although a volume on Tagore, written by Marjorie Sykes and printed in India by Longmans, Green and Company, might well be reprinted for American boys and girls.

The books on these outstanding persons of the Orient suitable for use with elementary and junior high school pupils are:

- Nina B. Baker. *Sun Yat Sen*. Vanguard, 1946.
 Pearl Buck. *Tell the People*. John Day Co., 1945.
 The work of James Yen in China.
 Jeannette Eaton. *Gandhi: Fighter Without a Sword*. Morrow, 1950.
 Helena Kuo. *Giants of China*. Dutton, 1944. Includes a chapter on Sun Yat Sen.
 Krishna Nehru. *The Story of Gandhi*. Didier, 1950. (Grades 5-7)
 Shakuntala Masani. *Gandhi's Story*. Oxford University Press, 1950. (Grades 5-7)
 Shakuntala Masani. *Nehru's Story*. Oxford University Press, 1949. (Grades 5-7)
 Catherine O. Peace. *Mahatma Gandhi: A Book for Young People*. Henry Holt & Co., Inc., 1950.
 Cornelia Spencer. *Nehru of India*. John Day Co., 1948.

LATIN AMERICA

FEW of the outstanding men and women of Latin America who have contributed to the world are as yet known to citizens of the United States, except perhaps Bolivar and San Martín and possibly Juarez. Men and women like Sor Juana Ines de la Cruz, great Mexican poet and leader in the women's right movement; Carlos Finlay, pioneer in the fight against yellow fever; Gabriel Mistral, Nobel prize winning poet; and Moeises Saenz and Mariano Rondon, defenders of the Indian in the Latin American society, are too little known, and full biographies have not been written about them for children.

The life stories of several men and women with a world view have appeared, however, in the following books:

- Nina B. Baker. *He Wouldn't Be King: The Story of Simon Bolivar*. Vanguard, 1941.
 Nina B. Baker. *Juarez, Hero of Mexico*. Vanguard, 1942.
 Mabel L. Ives. *He Conquered the Andes: The Story of San Martin the Liberator*. Little, Brown & Co., 1943.
 Vera Kelsey. *Six Great Men of Brazil*. D. C. Heath & Co., 1942. (Grades 4-6)
 Marion F. Lansing. *Against All Odds: Pioneers of South America*. Doubleday and Co., Inc., 1942.
 Marion F. Lansing. *Liberators and Heroes of Mexico and Central America*. Page, 1942.
 Marion F. Lansing. *Liberators and Heroes of South America*. Page, 1940.
Latin American Heroes. C. E. Merrill Company, 1946. (Grades 5-7)
 Muna Lee. *Pioneers of Puerto Rico*. D. C. Heath & Co., 1944. (Grades 4-6)
 James A. Magner. *Men of Mexico*. Bruce Publishing Co., 1942.
 "National Heroes of the Americas." Pan American Union, 1945.
 Thomas Rourke. *Man of Glory—Simon Bolivar*. Morrow, 1942.
 Watt Stewart. *Builders of Latin America*. Harper and Brothers, 1942.
 Randall E. Stratton and Howard E. Wilson. *Juarez of Mexico: A Leader of Democracy*. American Book Co., 1942.
 E. D. J. Waughm. *Simon Bolivar: A Story of Courage*. Macmillan, 1941.

From the foregoing remarks and bibliographies it should be seen that any teacher in the junior high school can start now with existing biographies, limited though they are in many respects, while elementary school teachers can utilize the few books which exist about world-minded persons from many parts of the world. Meanwhile, writers and publishers might well consider which world figures should be treated in biographies for boys and girls in American schools.

