

Forecasts

EDITED BY GENEVIEVE STUTTAFORD

Nonfiction

PRINCELY GARDENS: The Origins and Development of the French Formal Style Kenneth Woodbridge. Rizzoli, \$45 ISBN 0-8478-0684-7

Woodbridge is popular as a book author and writer in British garden journals; he contributed the France section in the *Oxford Companion to Gardens*, a subject he further explores in this comprehensive volume. Scholars as well as general readers who share the author's passion for France's antique glories will find the book indispensable. Woodbridge provides information on famous parks and gardens created in France going back to the 15th century, the Italian influence on designers, the wide differences between English and French gardens, etc. Black-and-white photos of restored sites and drawings of vanished plots illustrate the book. While unexciting, the photos effectively document the scholarly, impeccably organized and well-written text. (June 9)

RITES: A Guatemalan Boyhood Victor Perera. Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, \$15.95

These charming vignettes of a Jewish boyhood under the Guatemalan dictatorship of the 1940s read as though they might have been written by Leo Rosten in García Márquez territory. Describing his problems in growing up Jewish in a world of mestizos and Indians, a professor of creative writing at Univ. of California, Santa Cruz, humorously depicts people, conditions and incidents that were painful to experience but are delightful to read about: antigovernment demonstrations, bullying classmates, quarrelsome Sephardi parents, a schizophrenic sister, prodigal uncle and revolutionary cousin, and a lonely GI eager for an egg cream or a friendly female companion. Three final chapters describe the changes Perera found on return visits to Guatemala in 1953, 1971 and 1981. *Jewish Book Club alternate.* (June 14)

YAMAGATA Austin Jaynes. Hugh Lauter Levin Assoc. (Scribners, dist.), \$50 ISBN 0-88363-386-8

Hiro Yamagata paints Parisian street scenes and cafes, bicyclists lifted aloft by colorful airships, the Eiffel Tower at dusk, giant rabbits leading the Paris cir-

cus. His is a world of flamboyant sailboats, fireworks, leaping dolphins, of easy miracles and nostalgic comforts, a child's paradise in which rainbows hug the ground in leaf-strewn parks. Born in Japan, Yamagata settled in Los Angeles after studying in Paris. Some of his paintings and prints synthesize artistic techniques of East and West; their abstract, shimmering quality recalls *ukiyo-e* woodblock prints. Yamagata prettifies everything—a cluster of Los Angeles billboards, a French wedding, a robbery. While his pictures with their candy colors, jaunty figures and minute detail have surface charm, their aura of innocence is facile and their photorealist technique is slick. (June 15)

Fiction: Sybil Steinberg

Nonfiction: Genevieve Stuttaford

Paperbacks: John Mutter

Children's Books: Diane Roback

How-To Books: Penny Kaganoff

Editorial Assistant: Evelyn Etheridge

CONTENT'S DREAM Charles Bernstein.

Sun & Moon, \$17.95 ISBN 0-940650-57-6
As co-editor of the journal $L=A=N=G=U=A=G=E$, poet and critic Bernstein has published writers whose shared goal is the transformation of society. Since words encode social values, the writer must break with routine thought patterns, and, in doing so, help readers outgrow the "hierarchialized" structures that warp both capitalist and communist societies, argues Bernstein. This collection of 26 of his essays explores such topics as commercial movies' idealization of society, writing as a form of psychic surgery, William Carlos Williams's break with "official verse culture," Arakawa's conceptual paintings and Ginsberg's poetics of breath. Several pieces employ fractured syntax and shifting frames of reference; a poem about the nature of work concludes, "There's no escape from the nine-to-five self." Bernstein explores multiple ways of viewing reality as he ranges from Blake to Zukofsky. (June 15)

MENGELE: The Complete Story Gerald L. Posner and John Ware. McGraw-Hill, \$18.95 ISBN 0-07-050598-5

Based on five years' research and exclu-

sive access to family papers, this highly engrossing book gives the fullest account yet published of Josef Mengele's life. Posner, a Manhattan attorney, and Ware, a British journalist, also examine the efforts to bring the doctor to trial and draw conclusions about why he was never caught. They separate fact from legend, account for the false trails that enticed West German and Israeli agents and self-appointed Nazi hunters, and describe the media circus in 1985 when the grave of the "Angel of Death" was finally found. The book is filled with startling touches, such as Mengele's first wife's comments after visiting her husband at Auschwitz when he was conducting his "experiments." The book is an exciting chronicle of escape, evasion, close calls and fearful loneliness. Through extended quotes from a diary Mengele kept from May 1960 until shortly before his death in 1979, plus the comments of many people who knew him at various stages, a memorable multifaceted portrait of "the world's most hated man" emerges. Photos. 50,000 first printing; \$20,000 ad/promo; author tour. (June 16)

MASTERS AND JOHNSON ON SEX AND HUMAN LOVING William H. Masters, Virginia E. Johnson and Robert C. Kolodny. Little, Brown, \$24.95 ISBN 0-316-54990-8

Since this trio's 1982 publication of the college textbook *Human Sexuality*, sex-abuse cases and teenage pregnancies have multiplied, the "G-spot" has been identified, the AIDS epidemic has traumatized gays and straights alike, and the contraceptive sponge (with its 15% failure rate) has been introduced. This volume, which reproduces most of the 1982 text, covers these and other developments in chapters dealing with sexual anatomy and response, birth control, gender/roles, homosexuality, sexual fantasy and so forth. The tone is responsible, clinical and dry, but the basic information provided should prove helpful to many. The authors offer straightforward suggestions to parents on sex education along with advice to persons who have been involved in incest and to couples who want to enhance sexual satisfaction. While touting the Masters and Johnson sex-therapy method as revolutionary, they discuss various rival approaches and offer guidelines for choosing a sex therapist. *First serial to Redbook.* (June 16)