

Contemporary prints Minor Hockney work

quain's game" of 1968 at £1,000 (Hugh Moss) and "Vase de ... at £950 (Redfern). A sale of minor Picasso prints did attract strong bidding, with "Pollard Suite" "Rembrandt et de femme" at £820 (Hugh ...). But bidding on James Mill Whistler prints was fiercer than ever, with "The Burner" at £290 and "Old Bedford Bridge" at £140, both prices doubling Sotheby's estimates. The sale totalled £25,128.

A sale of Chinese works of art, at Sotheby's, made £22,084, with a jade ts'ung at £660 (T. C. ...). A sale of Victorian paintings at Sotheby's Belgravia made £20,793.

Artists were selling Japanese prints of art and were relieved to find that there were plenty of bidders to make good the price of the Japanese. There were some high prices for lacquer. A nineteenth-century lacquer model

of the mythological treasure boat, Takarabune, made £2,415 (S. Day). It is 20 inches long and highly decorative. A large and ornate nineteenth-century lacquer cabinet made £1,995 (Woods Wilson) and a lacquer box and cover in the form of a seated maiden beating a roll of cloth with a mallet made £1,050 (Spink).

A book sale at Phillips included an album of nineteenth-century photographs which went to a New York private collector for £950 (Elliott). The album contains six Canadian views by A. Henderson of Montreal, one dated 1857 and two of them with American Indians posing; the rest of the album is made up of views from all round the world by other photographers. Correction: In yesterday's sale room report the total of Phillips's painting sale was incorrectly given as £21,169. That was the total of the furniture sale. The paintings made £101,835.

Reception

River Expedition

Presentation and reception was held last night at Armoury House, London, by the committee of the River Expedition. The chair-Major-General F. G. Caldwell, welcomed the guests, who included Parliamentary Under-Secretary for Defence for the Army, Dudley Smith and Field Marshal Sir Gerald and Lady Templar.

Members

Malta Society
The Duchess of Gloucester was present yesterday at a dinner given by the Australia Society at the Chester hotel in celebration of Australia Day. Lord Carrington, Chairman of the society, presided, and the official guests included: Australian High Commissioner and Mrs. ... Lord and Lady Hailsham of St. ... the Earl and Countess of Sel-

Years ago

The Times of Friday, January 1949

Middle East policy

Our Cairo Correspondent
Subjects of Soviet policy in the Middle East appear to be the establishment of governments subservient to Russia, the hastening of withdrawal, and the exclusion of British and American influence. Russia would then have no fear of an Arab coalition with the West against her attempts to dominate the eastern Mediterranean while Britain and America are deprived of their share of the Arabian oilfields. Soviet propaganda accordingly aims at bringing down the present regimes in the Arab countries and at despatching friendship between those countries and the West.

Science report

Normal hormone balance

Manic depressives sometimes seem to have unusually low blood sugar, in spite of eating adequately. That is similar to the findings of psychologically normal controls.

Gordon and Dr van der Velde found that if there are occasional defects of defective metabolism under normal circumstances they ought to show up more clearly under abnormal conditions. So they studied six volunteer manic depressive schizophrenics and six normal volunteers to a simple, less test.

A normal person goes without food for a long time, his hormone levels adapt so that glucose is more readily available for and his blood sugar level is kept up. The adaptation can be demonstrated by suddenly administering large quantities of glucose over a period of fast: within an hour blood sugar shoots up to well over the normal limits.

A test administered by Dr Gordon and Dr van der Velde to 12 volunteers took the form of a one-day fast, with three blood samples after a glucose "load", one administered before the fast, one

during the fast, and one after the resumption of normal eating habits. The test showed that by comparison with both the normal volunteers and the schizophrenics, the manic depressives had a sluggish and diminished response to the glucose load during fasting.

Several interacting hormones are involved in the control of glucose metabolism, and Dr Gordon and Dr van der Velde admit that they do not know exactly where to look for the critical factor in manic depressives. But in view of the lively interest of researchers in the interaction of endocrine hormones, both with the central nervous system and with the genetic functions of cells, it is to be hoped that the data from the patients themselves may eventually be seen to fit with the basic concepts which are emerging from biological research. By Nature-Times News Service. Source: Nature, January 18 (277, 160; 1974).

Nature-Times News Service, 1974.

Nature, the international science journal, is published weekly in London by Macmillan Journals Ltd.

OBITUARY

Mr H. E. BATES

Novelist and writer of short stories

Mr H. E. Bates, CBE, the short-story writer and novelist, died yesterday in hospital in Canterbury. He was 68.

Bates published his first novel, *The Two Sisters*, at the age of 20. It had been accepted for Jonathan Cape by Edward Garnett, who became his mentor in much the same way as had been D. H. Lawrence's more than a decade earlier. Bates repaid the debt in 1950, with an attractive memoir of Garnett, which, from the very nature of the relation between them, was as much a piece of autobiography as of biography. Bates proved a more amenable pupil than Lawrence, perhaps because of the enthusiasms, for Chekhov and Maupassant, Turgenyev, Flaubert, and Bierce, he shared with Garnett. More than any English writers, these were his masters. Turgenyev above all, whose influence, assimilated and made part of the author himself, was evident in his work from the beginning, in short stories and novels alike. During the first half of his career he was thought of primarily as a short-story writer. Later, his novels brought him a much wider readership, but it is on the short stories, and those written while still a young man, stories collected in the volumes *The Woman Who Had Imagination* (1934), *Cut and Come Again* (1935), *Something Short and Sweet* (1937), *The Flying Goat* (1939), and *The Beauty of the Dead* (1940), that his reputation will largely rest. Even when he seemed to be obsessed with the Larkin saga he continued to write short stories which showed glimpses of his old mastery.

Herbert Ernest Bates was born on May 16, 1905, at Rushden, Northamptonshire, of "simple country folk", to use his own phrase. He attended Kettering Grammar School but, as the list of writers who influenced him shows, was essentially self-educated. For a time he worked as a reporter on a country newspaper and then as a clerk in a leather warehouse. After the publication of *The Two Sisters*, apart from a brief interlude as an assistant in the children's department of a famous London bookshop, a job Garnett characteristically found for him, he devoted himself entirely to writing. His stay in London was relatively short: by 1931 he was settled in Kent, in the village where he lived for the rest of his life except for the war years, during which he served in the RAF there, his duties were in public relations, but public relations most imaginatively conceived, as is shown by the two collections of short stories about fighter pilots and bomber crews at war, *The Greatest People in the World* and *How Sleep the Brave*, written over the pseudonym of "Flying Officer X". Bates rose brilliantly to the occasion and the stories, wry, often poignant, still move the reader today.

Other fruits of his experience of wartime life with the RAF were his novels *Fair Stood the Wind for France* and *The Purple Plain*, which dealt with the retreat from Burma.

Bates was always a countryman, and his best work was inspired by the English countryside. When, as occasionally, he dealt with life in London or in industrial slums, he was never quite convincing, it was as though he was writing out of memories of literature rather than from direct observation. In his stories of the country, however, and of life in small country towns, his observation never failed him, and he rendered English country life without sentimentality and in its most enduring aspects. At his best, scene and character exist in perfect balance, though the impression remains that he was secretly less interested in character than in scene. This is especially true of his later novels. The earlier ones, *The*



Two Sisters, Catherine Foster, Charlotte's Row, The Fallow Land and The Poacher, had been largely carried by their author's strong lyrical impulse; when this faded, as it tended to do in the later fiction, what remained in the memory was a series of vignettes, of visual impressions, rather than any intense or revealing relationship between human beings.

Bates was a highly professional writer, but not even the careful craftsmanship of his postwar work could hide the fact that, in the novels at least, he relied too much on his strong visual sense, so that his characters were too plainly adjuncts of the scenes described, taking from them what life they had. At the same time, even when the creative pressure seemed low, he wrote with a precise felicity, a sure observation expressed in an unerring sense of words. He was, in no pejorative sense, a prose poet, and his best effects were obtained when his delight in the natural scene, his vivid apprehension of the moods of nature, of the changing seasons and the weather, crystallized into symbols of the states of mind of his characters. When this happened—and it did so time and again during the first 15 years of his career—he was without an equal in England in the kind of story he had made his own and stood in the direct line of succession of fiction-writers of the English countryside that includes George Eliot, Hardy, and D. H. Lawrence.

His character, Uncle Silas, a shrewd, hard-living, lusty, nonagenarian peasant based on memories of a great-uncle, when projected on television, brought Bates an audience wider by far than his usual circle of readers. Bates developed and enlarged upon this Rabelaisian side of country life in his bucolic comedy of the welfare state, *The Darling Buds of May*. It was fearfully successful, was filmed and staged, and proved to be the forerunner of other Larkin episodes; to those who had admired the early Bates with his true feeling for the English countryside life with the Larkins seemed crude stuff.

In his last years he published three admirably evocative volumes of autobiography, *The Vanished World*; *The Blossoming World* and *The World in Ripeness*. In 1970 he published his novella *The Triple Echo* which was made into a successful film with Glenda Jackson and Oliver Reed in the leading parts. He reached an even wider audience through the stylishly directed Granada series *Country Matters* in which stories by himself and A. E. Coppard were adapted for the television screen. They proved immensely popular. Bates was created CBE in June last year.

Bates attempted the drama in *The Days of Glory*, wrote a critical study *The Modern English Short Story*, and was the author of several volumes of essays on country scenes and life. He married in 1931 Marjorie Helen Cox and had two sons and two daughters.

SIR JULIAN HALL

Sir Julian Hall, Bt, died on Monday at the age of 66. He

he could recall clearly the flavour of a particular production; a director's idiosyncrasies

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Conspiracy to defraud and deceit

gina v Scott
The Lord Justice Roskill, Lord Justice James and Mr Justice ... Davies

ment was the passage in the judgment of Mr Justice Buckley in *Re London and Globe Finance Corporation Ltd* ([1903] 1 Ch 728, 732): "To deceive is, I apprehend, to induce a man to believe that a

Court of Appeal