



Illustration: THROUGH THE WOODS

by Agnes Miller Parker

### NOTABLE FOR ITS ILLUSTRATIONS

Agnes Miller Parker, whose wood engravings illustrate *Through the Woods* by H. E. Bates, is most successful in her handling of both the black and the white line, as elements of design. In cutting away the black background and in placing her patterns against the white paper, she has avoided the obvious fault of much white line engraving, the heaviness of the too black page. The eye flows over those cuts, dispersed throughout the text, as readily as it does over the printed page. The larger illustrations and the full page cuts suffer from this same admirable cutting, for the now naked white spaces are filled by unnecessarily littered vegetation. They fulfill their duty as design, but are devoid of natural feeling.

Throughout the first three "seasons" of the book, the prose and cuts blend into a motionless world. It is only with the coming of *Winter Gale* that the air and smells permeate the woods. Save for a few cuts, the appeal is decorative, not sensory. Birds and animals exist in the rarified atmosphere of the artist's imagination, not in the woods of the author's recollection. The *Startled Bird*, clinging to a wind-swept branch, is exceptional. Lost also is the tonal and textural

feeling of the wild life. The meticulous technique does produce a roundness of form, yet the coats of crawling, running and flying things all have the same quality. It is only the occasional *Two Snails* which sluggishly crawl off of the page.

For those who enjoy the style of H. E. Bates, this book offers an unusual opportunity. Not only is Agnes Miller Parker more generous with her illustrations than was John Nash in the earlier *Flowers and Faces*, but the new book is available to those to whom the earlier limited Cockerel Press editions were prohibitive. The illustrations are no more naturalistically enlightening than were those of Nash but they do augment the feeling of the words and complete the design of the page.

The book will be most enjoyed by those whose past experiences affiliate them with this reminiscent nostalgic mood, as the author wanders in the English woodland throughout the cycle of the months.

Florence King Weichsel

THROUGH THE WOODS: by H. E. Bates, illustrated by Agnes Miller Parker—*The Macmillan Company*—\$3.00.

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*The Print Collector's Quarterly* returns to America with the coming February issue. Having begun its career in New York under the guidance of Mr. Fitzroy Carrington, first as a house organ for Frederick Keppel & Company and later as a publication of the Boston Museum of Fine Arts, it went to England after the war to be edited by Mr. Campbell Dodgson of the British Museum.

In the hands of J. H. Bender of Kansas City, its new owner, *The Print Collector's Quarterly* hopes to continue

the policy laid down by Mr. Carrington and carried forward by Mr. Dodgson. It will remain conservative in all things, although it will lay a somewhat greater emphasis on contemporary work. Alfred Fowler, whose editorial experience covers many years of association with educational and artistic publications, has become its editor.

We of PRINTS wish to express our satisfaction that so important an institution in the field of graphic art is to continue.

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#### GOOD ADVICE<sup>2</sup>

by Peppino Mangravite

Work of sufficient strength and character to challenge opposing opinions  
... lithograph, 8 $\frac{3}{8}$  x 14 $\frac{1}{2}$ , edition 30, 1936.  
(Illustrated on opposite page)

<sup>2</sup> This appeared on two of the reviewing group lists.

