life, people, and books

The dumb chums of the silver screen



Mickey Rooney and Lady Q do a little thinking in the film "Stablemates."

YOU HAVE probably never heard of the Patsy. It's the animal equivalent of the Oscar; a Hollywood award presented to Picture Animal Top Star of the Year. Hence the name. The first Patsy went to a mule. It has been won at various times by a lion, a cat, a goose called Salvador Dali, and a bear. Last year's winner, for the second year running, was a highly-intelligent pig called Arnold. It is a fitting tribute to the box-office prowess of the film industry's almost-human performers.

According to Raymond Lee, author of an exhaustive and lavishly illustrated history of animals in the movies **Not so Dumb** (Barnes, 70s) animals have been pulling in the customers since the very beginning.

"Horse eating Hay," made as long ago as 1887, launched the Sigmund Lubin Company. And two years later Tom Edison's first successful flicker showed Will Dickson with his hand resting on a horse being fitted for a shoe.

But if the horses jumped ahead early on it was the dogs that made most of the running. The first dog-star—According to Mr Lee, although some of us would want to make a claim for Cecil Hepworth's English collie, Rover—arrived around 1912. She was a collie called Jean.

Most famous of all the screen's "dumb chums" was a German shepherd dog, Rin Tin Tin. Unlike his nearest rival, Lassie, a product of Hollywood . . . dog-training . . . , Rin Tin Tin was salvaged as a pup from an abandoned German dug-out by an American soldier in World War I. During the Twenties Rinty ran to the rescue not only on the screen, but as a box-office bonanza he saved the struggling Warner Brothers from Bankruptcy.

He lived like a star, did Rin Tin Tin. He had his own valet and chef and was driven to the studios in his own chauffeur-driven limousine.

. . . appropriately, . . . his master's arms — in 1932, leaving four sons, each of whom was to follow in the family tradition. A great-grandson, Rinty IV, found success on television.

Animal stars, as Mr Lee shows, can be every bit as temperamental and big-headed as humans. Tony, Tom Mix's equally-famous horse, had the big-star temperament and showed it on the slightest provocation. Orangey, a particularly evil-tempered cat took such a dislike to Ray Milland, his co-star in "Rhubarb," that the unfortunate actor had to have his hands smeared with liver-paste before the cat would show the slightest interest in him.

But if awards were made to the most co-operative animal star it would almost certainly go to a Jersey cow called Elsie.

Her first day on the set of "Little Men" called for Kay Francis to milk Elsie. Elsie obliged with a quart right on cue. Later the scenario demanded a dramatic climax in which she gives birth to a calf.

While her producers were looking for a "double" Elsie solved the problem on her own by a co-operative cow can . . .

John Stratten



A shot to bring tears to the eyes of film fans, Shirley Temple and her pet pony.

Queen Victoria's busy pe

by ERIC GILLIBRAND

SOME DAY, when the full story of the part played by the Queen and her husband in the affairs of Britain can be told, it will undoubtedly make fascinating reading. If, that is, the record of their predecessors is anything to judge by.

Historian Frank Hardie has been taking a long, cool look at some of them, and the result is striking: (**The Political Influence of the British Monarchy**, 1868-1952, Batsford, 42s). It was not an easy subject we are told, because of the reluctance of politicians to reveal how much they have been bothered, or swayed, by the Sovereign. But Mr Hardie has been researching with marked success.

The amount of royal guidance (or, some would say, meddling) has, of course, been steadily diminishing over the years. Queen Victoria was allowed more latitude than any later monarch. It was typical (and, hindsight suggests, of her to write to Lady Wolseley, whose husband was in company of our army in Egypt: "In strict confidence I must tell you I think the Government are more incorrigible than ever, and I do think your husband should hold strong language to them. . . . Pray either destroy this, or lock it up."

For the fact was that Victoria, however much she might shun public life (which led Bagehot to describe her slightingly and inaccurately as "a retired widow") was an astonishingly busy woman.

"It is impossible to overemphasise the immense extent of her industry," Mr Hardie assures us. "The more one learns of her, the more one wonders how she found time to do anything but write. She did find it, but one can but be amazed at the vast daily output of letters and telegrams.

"Sir Howard Elphinstone, Governor to the Duke of Connaught, received an extra letters from the Queen in 48 hours, but this score was bettered many times. At the height of the Eastern crisis Disraeli confided to a friend that the Queen, 'almost literally,' wrote every day and telegraphed every hour. . . . In the Gladstone papers are 577 letters and 241 telegrams from the Queen."

But at least Victoria knew what she was writing about. "The Duke of Wellington, in the previous reign, had complained of the necessity of having to write long answers to letters from the King, 'respectfully telling him what an old fool he was,' William IV's niece was far from a fool even as a girl."

Edward VII had brains and character but was "notoriously indiscreet" at first. Lord Granville, Foreign Secretary, who liked him, nevertheless had to complain that one of his first notes to the King had been handed round at dinner party. Later Edward behaved, but he persisted in making important State visits without a Cabinet Minister in attendance.

It is for George V that the author keeps his most glowing praise. "He made mistakes, of course. . . . But during his reign many other institutions were changed out of all recognition or altogether disappeared. Most of the other monarchies came to an end. . . .

"He did more than just let the ship of British monarchy ride out the storms; when he gave up the command he left the ship in better trim than he found it. . . . If the story of the constitutional growth of the British Monarchy over the last century has a hero, he must, great as must be our admiration for George VI, be George V."

Digging around Dickens

EVER SINCE a young parliamentary reporter called Charles Dickens turned to writing fiction, his life and work have never ceased to attract attention. The ground has been dug, dug again, and hoed to a fine tilth.

The latest addition to a wealth of Dickensiana is Angus Wilson's perceptive look at **The World of Charles Dickens**, published this week in readiness for the centenary of Dickens's death (Secker and Warburg, 80s).

Wilson, a distinguished novelist and author as well as an acknowledged authority on Dickens, assumes that the reader has done his homework. Indeed, far from being a primer, it is a stimulating discussion of Dickens's work in the context of Victorian England and of the influences on Dickens's writing.

Wilson tends to flit about in his discussion. Despite the declared chronological order of things, and the way in which the chapters are arranged, the general reader may easily lose the thread.

Because Wilson's purpose is to show how Dickens's experiences and obsessions "were put transmuted into the great art of his novels," and Wilson has succeeded quietly but very persuasively, often shedding light upon aspects of Dickens's novels to increase the reader's appreciation.

Quite clearly, this excellent, handsome book has been a labour of love for Wilson, for it is one to savour. The lavish illustrations, with so many in colour, add to the pleasure.

John Robert-Blunn

THEY SHOULD be a rich and fascinating read, these **Memories** by Julian Huxley (Allen and Unwin, 63s). After all, he is a descendant not only of the Huxleys but the Arnolds. he saw Queen Victoria and helped form Unesco, he won the Newdigate Prize for poetry yet made science his life work, and he has been deeply involved in projects which shaped the world today.

So they are—to a point. Whenever Sir Julian is observing nature with his scientist's eyes, describing a humming bird, listening to a chaffinch singing "in dialect," finding the London Zoo camels sitting quiet in their broken cage during an air raid, we seem to be at his elbow listening to that best of talkers, an expert.

There are some superb glimpses of the human animal, too. Winston Churchill staring at a giant panda ("It has exceeded all my expectations," he said); H G Wells writing bullying letters to hurry the young Huxley's work on "The Science of Life," and "Commander" Campbell bumbling on the Brains Trust. Campbell had been a ship's purser, Sir Julian claims, and the Admiralty was very annoyed when the BBC promoted him.

Indeed a book well worth reading, and one looks forward to the next volume the

A rank above the rest

83-year-old savant promises us, on his work with Unesco.

And yet there is an unease about it. A good deal seems to be promised but never revealed, and there are tantalising hints of family and personal problems never fully explained.

Here is the public figure, modestly displayed with lavish praise for friends and colleagues, full of great undertakings, hard work deserved prizes, and honours.

It all seems quite smooth, yet Sir Julian tells us that as a young man he twice suffered breakdowns, he had another after the last war, and he has also been subject to fits of depression.

He never says so explicitly, but there are indications that the weight of his heritage, the great Thomas Huxley on one side and all those Arnolds on the other, may have pressed a clever, sensitive boy slightly out of shape. Were his illnesses an inner protest against expectations which he wrongly thought he could never live up to?

Like a faint perfume, there broods over the book a strange feeling that the Huxleys retained into this century much of the Victorian dedication to work and knowledge but also a conviction that they were part of a "different" class.

Sir Julian quotes without comment a letter written by his younger brother Aldous in 1916: "In these days, when one cannot get commissions, it is a privilege to fight with that elegance and efficiency which, in the old days, as an officer, were within one's reach." Of course a Huxley could never be an Other Rank.

And, one would love to know exactly what Sir Julian wrote about the difference between social classes which kindled the wrath of the socialist Wells thundering round his head.

Beryl Jones

Pick of the week

MISCELLANY: The Book of Boswell, by Sylvester Gordon Boswell (Gollancz, 42s). Autobiography of one of the grand old men of the gypsies, telling what their life is all about.

Encounter with the Middle East, by Winston Burdett (Andre Deutsch, 50s). Long, objective examination of what lies behind the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Historical Sketches and Personal Recollections of Manchester, by Archibald Prentice (Frank Cass and Co 84s). New edition of a book published in 1851 to show progress of public opinion from 1792 to 1832. Absorbing "period piece."

Introduction to Small Antiques, by James Mackay (Garnstone Press, 45s). Concise sections on 200 different objets d'art and how to start collecting them.

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE LICENSING ACT, 1964

NOTICE OF PRINCIPAL MEETING

COUNTY PALATINE OF LANCASTER

HUNDRED OF SALFORD

(except the township of Aspull)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the PRINCIPAL MEETING to be held pursuant to the Licensing Rules, 1949, for the County Compensation District for the above area will be held at THE COURTS OF JUSTICE, CROWN SQUARE, MANCHESTER, on TUESDAY, the 16th day of JUNE, 1970, at 10am.

AND NOTICE IS HEREBY ALSO GIVEN that the said Compensation Committee will at the meeting be required to hear, with reference to the premises specified below, all those persons who have given notice of their intention to appear before them under the Licensing Act, 1964, they are bound to give an opportunity of being heard; that to be so heard they must appear in person or by counsel or solicitor in question, and unless it appears to the said Compensation Committee that there is some other sufficient reason in the question of the renewal of the licence of those premises including the Licensing Justices.

LICENSED PREMISES REFERRED TO

Name and Situation of Premises	Nature of Business	Licensee
PETTY SESSIONAL DIVISION OF ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE		
Shears Inn, Carrhill Road, Mossley.	Publican's	Doris Audrey Adelaide Horsley

C P H McCALL,
Clerk of the County Compensation Committee.
County Sessions House, Preston.
May 28, 1970.

PARLIAMENTARY BOROUGH OF MANCHESTER

Ardwick, Blackley, Cheetham, Exchange, Gorton, Moss Side, Openshaw, Withington, and Wythenshawe Constituencies.

PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS—JUNE 18, 1970.

POSTAL AND PROXY VOTING.

Electors and their Proxies should take note that applications to be treated as an absent voter and other applications and notices about postal or proxy voting must reach the undersigned at the Elections Office, Room 33, Town Hall, Manchester 2, by June 4, 1970, if they are to be effective for these Elections.

G C OGDEN, Electoral Registration Officer.

SALES BY AUCTION

CHESTER (LANCS). — Valuable Stone-built detached residence with gardens, lawn and croft, with a southerly outlook; erected absolutely complete in 1967 in the Ribble Valley. Also to be offered for sale by Auction at the Queen's Hotel, Chester, on Wednesday, June 17th at 3.30 p.m. (unless previously sold). Particulars from Messrs. Sidebotham, Chartered Surveyors, Valuers, Auctioneers and Estate Agents, 40, Clitheroe, Lancs. Tel: Sidebotham 652.

SALES BY AUCTION

Coin Auction

to be held by Messrs. Chadkirk Estates, 151 London Road, Hazel Grove, Stockport (Tel. 061-483 5395) at the Alma Lodge Hotel, Buxton, Road, Buxton on Wednesday, June 17th at 2.30 p.m. Viewing from 5.30 p.m. commences Wednesday, June 3rd. Auctioneers' Office.

SALES BY AUCTION

BROCKLEHURST & COMPANY will offer for Sale by Auction in Manchester on Wednesday, June 3rd & WASHPOOL COTTAGES, With possession and vacant building land, situate on the east side of Washpool, Prestbury, adjoining the Macclesfield Canal.

WOODWORKING MACHINERY & EQUIPMENT including Wadkin Dominion Planer; WADKIN Dominion Bursgreen Spindle Moulder; WADKIN Dominion Tenoner; WADKIN Dominion Vertical Borer; BURGESS-FIELD, on TUESDAY, JUNE 16, 1970.

CUPBOARDS, DRESSERS, BEDSTEADS, BEDROOM SUITES, SPINDLE MOULDER, SAWS, Etc., WOOD TURNING LATHES, Etc.

SHROPSHIRE

Of Interest to Builders and Civil Engineers. Messrs. Brodies, Auctioneers, Valuers and Estate Agents, will offer for Sale by Auction at the IRONBRIDGE HOTEL, IRONBRIDGE, TELFORD, SHROPSHIRE on TUESDAY, JUNE 16th, 1970, at 3 p.m. (unless previously sold) the

IRONBRIDGE "B" POWER STATION

IRONBRIDGE, TELFORD, SHROPSHIRE

Very Important SALE BY AUCTION of

EXCELLENT SECTIONAL BUILDINGS

including very large 3 Storey Warehouse with Brick Elevations, approx. 66 ft. 3 Storey Warehouse with Corrugated Asbestos Roof, Brick Elevations, approx. 66 ft. Single Storey Brick Workshop, Brick Garage, Timber Store, Brick Toilet Block, Timber Store, Timber Garage, Timber Office Block, Corrugated Asbestos Roof