

WANTED AND FOR SALE

MR G. S. SANDERSON, 422 Hertford Road, Edmonton, London, N.9, would like to sell the following SFBC past titles: No. 30 and Nos. 51-92 inclusive.

Mrs A. M. Hill, 12 Friarage Mount, Northallerton, Yorkshire, would like to sell the following SFBC past titles: Nos. 59, 70, 76, 84, 87, 89, 90, 91, 93 and 94.

Mr J. D. Logan, 11 Portbury Grove, Shirehampton, Bristol, would like to obtain copies of British or American editions of *Astounding Science Fiction* issued before 1957.

22797000 Sgt O'Neill, B. P., 234 Signal Squadron (Malta), B.F.P.O. 51, wants to obtain copies of the following: *City, I, Robot, Spectrum II, Best SF Three*.

Mr D. V. Vincent, 8 Clay Lane Grove, Colchester, Essex, would like to get hold of a copy of *Tiger, Tiger*.

23687388 Pte Diviney, J., Regimental Wing C.O.D., Donnington, Shropshire, wants to buy the SFBC titles Nos. 1-60 inclusive.

The above members should, as always, be contacted direct.

OPTIONAL BOOKS

Here are details of the Readers Union Optional titles for August:

THE GREAT PIANISTS

by Harold C. Schonberg

(The August Additional)

THE following review, from the *Sunday Times*, was written by Rosalyn Tureck, the famous pianist and harpsichordist:

'*The Great Pianists* is an epic work which traverses the development of piano performance since its inception two hundred years ago. It forms not only a survey of the field, long overdue, but also the way in which it is accomplished, serves to honour as well as to illustrate the great development of performance as an art.

'This is a book that can be read, studied and enjoyed on many levels. It will warm the heart of everyone who has ever thrilled to the music of pianists. Mr Schonberg manages to achieve in technical exposition an immediacy of feeling which brings the reader, layman or professional, into direct contact with the quality of each performer and composer. As a performer, I recognize the nuances and atmosphere of each performer, which are not easy to convey when one attempts to write about an art; this Mr Schonberg achieves in his easy, direct style, with freshness and enthusiasm, avoiding, rather miraculously, ponderous intellectual exposition.

'An enormous amount of research was necessary for the writing of this volume. The information ranges from the gradual transition from harpsichord to piano playing, with Johann Sebastian Bach, his son Carl Philipp Emmanuel, and Mozart as the prime figures in this period, to the foundations of piano technique and the branching-out of different styles up to the present day, including the great names of the generation just past and touching on those who are active in our time.

'The sources quoted in reference to the past are so varied and interesting that although many are indicated in the text, one wishes for a bibliography of his sources which would lead the curious performer or less experienced researcher more easily to a study of the complete historical texts.

'Since this work is as much a study of taste and styles as it is a recounting of the various peaks of pianistic achievement, its greatest value lies in showing the fallacy of absolute standards of taste. Today the general popular conception of pure style—or what is known as musicianship—is often more concerned with literal treatment of a musical score—or what might be termed musical hygiene—than with a cultivated musical taste and artistic conception. With each period considered here, the quotations commenting on old or newer styles provide some artistically pointed and often comic elements.

'Woven through the fabric of the great peak figures such as Mendelssohn, Chopin, Liszt, Anton Rubinstein, Busoni, are fascinating accounts and comparisons of pianists whose names are seldom spoken of today and known only to the best informed piano specialists. These come alive as real people and personalities, and one follows their struggles, triumphs and idiosyncrasies with ease and pleasurable sympathy.

'Mr Schonberg has the gift of treating present-day performers as well as those of the past with musical perception and human sympathy. He is to be congratulated for his outstandingly successful achievement.'

448 pages. Many illustrations. Index.

Gollancz 45s; SFBC 32s, post free

A VISUAL HISTORY OF MODERN BRITAIN

THE TOWN by Geoffrey Martin

TRANSPORT by Jack Simmons

(The August Supplementary Titles)

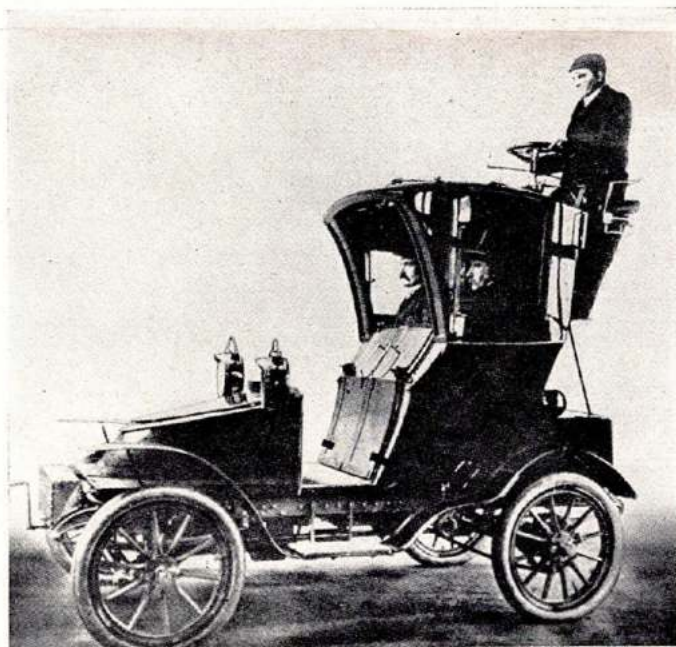
THE first two volumes in a new RU Supplementary series. The whole *Visual History* gives an account of the social history of this country, chiefly by means of pictures. Each book has a long introductory essay, closely linked to the illustrations by means of references, so that the work of the writer is given the utmost point and interest. These are extremely pleasurable books, partly because of the skill with which they have been created, and partly because they give one time and opportunity to absorb detail.

THE TOWN by Geoffrey Martin

The Town, for example, is not limited to a discussion of architecture: it concerns itself with towns as living entities, communities which have controlled trade, supplied rulers with money, gained representation in the English and Scottish Parliaments, places where people have lived and worked and still do so. Architecture and town planning are related to the society they serve, and part of the story belongs, too, to the medieval corporations, to elections, industrial changes, railways, water supplies. The illustrations in this and all the other volumes have extensive captions, with cross-references, which clearly expand and point the text. One of the aims behind the series has been to make people alive to the great wealth of material which has been accumulated in places like the British Museum and the National Buildings Record and in museums all over the country. The headings in Mr Martin's text for *The Town* will give you a very good idea of the scope and interest of the whole book: 'Roman Traditions and Saxon Towns'; 'Edward I's Towns: The Friars'; 'The Cloth Trade'; 'Incorporation'; 'Tudor Wales: The Dissolution'; 'Gilds and Chantry'; 'Chester and Yarmouth'; 'The Rise of the West End'; 'The Spas'; 'Sea-bathing'; 'Piers and Promenades'; 'The Railways'; 'Slums'; 'Civic Engineering'; 'World War II and Reconstruction'. These are only a small number of the subjects covered by the book in a way that is both exciting and informative.

7½ in. by 10 in. 214 pages. 233 illustrations. Index.

Studio Vista Books 35s; SFBC 25s, post free



The traditional form of the hansom cab adapted to motor traction (1906)

TRANSPORT by Jack Simmons

A survey of the development of transport from the thirteenth century until the present day, dealing with it as a factor in the growth of new trades and industries as well as one of the amenities of ordinary life. The story begins with the important changes made in naval architecture in the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries, and with the unsatisfactory state of road communications; it goes on then to illustrate the gradual improvement of the passenger carriage and the roads on which it ran in the reigns of the Tudors and Stuarts, and to discuss the great changes of the eighteenth century, in road engineering, the spread of canals and the growth of new towns, culminating in the emergence of steam as a motive power on water and on land. The final stage of the story takes in the triumph of the railway and the development of its rivals, the motor-car, the motor-bus and the aeroplane. The arrangement by subject rather than by period gives the whole book continuity and shape, and helps one to see more clearly the intricate and essential part which transport has played in the life and development of an entire nation.

7½ in. by 10 in. 206 pages. 239 illustrations. Notes and Index.

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