



SUNBURST

by
Maurice Magdaleno

MEXICO MAGDALENO was born in 1927 and at the age of 18 became involved in revolution and civil war. Sunburst is the story of revolution. It is Mexico, in its most violent period. It is a man without principle but with undying courage. He has the strength of porcupines he had little inclination of carrying out, nor immediately of understanding. He is alone, only to disillusion those who trusted him and afterwards called him "Lizard". The author's own search for truth seeking Indians appear in this book as well as the other characters, a conviction of the dignity of men, rebellious to the point of violence in rebellion against the status quo. The atmosphere of the Mexican village appears heavy and sleep on the surface, but beneath the surface the temperature can high and the air writhes with tension.

Raders will compare the book to "The Sun Also Rises" for its sympathy for the exploited and uprooted underlying in its mixture of realism and idealism. It is a good book with Sender's "Seven Red Soldiers"; and the author's characters, though they will always remain in other notorious figures well known in real life.

DON NEVER called it the "best Mexican novel". Industrial Mexican critics rank it similarly as the best of Mexico's contemporary literature. The author's book will introduce a steady and lasting new element to our literature.

"Stark, grim, fearless is the best novel about modern Mexico which has yet appeared in English". New York Times.

AKADEMIE DER KÜNSTE

LEAVES IN THE STORM

Edited by
STEPHAN SCHIMANSKI AND HENRY TREECE

This is the most important collection which the editors of *Transformations* have brought out so far.

It is a collection of thirty-four excerpts from the diaries of contemporary writers, covering the period from September 1939 to April 1945. The editor has put all these excerpts have been linked together by a running commentary so that the book, in its unified entity, presents a memorable record of the years of war as seen through the eyes of writers.

For the editors have laid stress on the poetic nature of the contributions, believing that such an approach alone could transcend the limits of time and the actual, and thus come to be accepted as a more universal interpretation of our times.

For these diaries, therefore, mention dates; hardly any speak of factual events, and some attempts to re-create a picture of the world are only very sketchy. The diaries are, in fact, parts of the aura surrounding such events, rather than their mirror-like reflection. And it is these reactions and emotions which speak in this volume to the reader. They speak of the desire to live, of Man's hope for the future and the defence of his past lies in his ability to record his experiences, both physical and spiritual. Without this ability, his life would be as nothing, a chain of half-remembered events, purposeless and without meaning.

And the underlying theme of this book is, indeed, not without moral.

Contributors to this volume include:

STEPHEN SPENCER	RUSSELL HEPBURN	WILLIAM SANDOZ
ALICE B. DAVIS	CAROLYN JACKSON	EDWARD LEADER
LORNA LEWIS	E. F. HORNAGE	ALICE LOWE
ROBERT HERRING	EARL DE MARÉ	JOHN WALLACE
PETER HALL	FRANCIS MEECHAM	KATHLEEN WILDE
BERT STILES	MARY SCOTT	BRUCE EAST
V. S. Pritchett	HENRY MILLER	GUNTERSCHE STEIN

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TO THE
BIG BIRD

BY BERT STILES

BERT STILES was a student at Columbia College in New York when he joined the American Army Air Force. He received his commission in November 1942 and came overseas in January 1943 to the Mediterranean. He was awarded the Air Medal and the Distinguished Flying Cross and was promoted to Captain. After his mission he was due to return to America when leave was due to him, he requested to be sent to the European fighters. On 26th November 1944 he was shot down in a P-51 on an escort mission to Hanover. He died of the injuries he sustained.

BY 1944 Bert Stiles had contributed stories and articles to prominent American Magazines, including *Time*, *Life*, *Newsweek*, etc. *Serenade to the Big Bird* is his only book. He had many of the characteristics of the typical American, and the book is written with sensitivity, lucidity, humor and a sense of the dramatic quality. It is sometimes gay, sometimes poignant, and even tragic. Bert Stiles' great achievement is that he has been able to express the spirit and the aspirations of American youth at its best.

Front jacket and typography designed by
John Heartfield

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Serenade to the Big Bird

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