

AKADEMIE DER KÜNSTE

**HEARTFIELD
ONLINE****SUNBURST**by
Mauricio Magdaleno

♦

Mauricio MAGDALENO was born in a small Mexican town in 1907, and grew up during the years of revolution and civil war. *Sunburst* is the story of revolutionary Mexico, told by a man who is not a communist without principles but with unselfish ambitions who, on the strength of his personal convictions, in the course of carrying out, rose to dazzling heights of power and fame, only to be betrayed by those he had known and affectionately called him "Little Ceyon". These silent, hard-working Indians appear in this book as the symbols of human wings, conscious of the dignity of men, strong in the power of love in defense of their right. The atmosphere of the Mexican village appears lucidly yet sleepy on the surface, but beneath the surface the feelings run high and the air seethes with tension.

Romans will compare the book to Silone's *Fantasma* in its sympathetic treatment of the theme of underside; in its mixture of realism and romanticism they will find links with the best of the Latin American writers. In the figure of Sumarino Herrera they will detect echoes of other notorious figures well known in real life.

Demo SEYER called it the "best Mexican novel". Influential Mexican critics rank it similarly as the best novel in the history of Mexican literature. To the English reader it will introduce a sturdy and lasting new classic.

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

by Mauricio Magdaleno

AKADEMIE DER KÜNSTE

LEAVES IN THE STORMEdited by
STEFAN SCHIMANSKI AND HENRY TREECE

This is the most important collection which the editors of *Transformation* 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 until the middle of 1945, and all these voices are here collected in one volume. It is particularly so that the book, in its unified entity, presents a memorable record of the years of war as seen through the eyes of our poets.

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 arts, and thus come to be accepted as a more universal interpretation of our times.

Few of these diaries, therefore, mention dates; hardly any mention specific events, and none attempt to re-create a pictorially accurate scene of actual happenings. 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 past and to the future, for the editors believe that Man's capacity to learn from the past is his chief gift—in his ability to recede his experiences, both physical and spiritual. Without this ability, his life would be as nothing, a chaos of half-remembered events, purposeless and without moral.

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

Leaves in the Storm is the first volume in a series of four, and the figure of Sumarino Herrera they will detect echoes of other notorious figures well known in real life.

Contributors to this volume include:

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ROBERT HEDREN	ERIK DE MASTY	JOHN WALLER
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TO THE
BIG BIRD**

BY BERT STILES

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BERT STILES was a student at Colorado College in 1941 when he joined the American Army Air Force. He received his commission November 1942 and his first assignment was to Great Britain in March 1944. He was awarded the Air Medal and the Distinguished Flying Cross and participated in thirty-five combat missions. Instead of returning to America when leave was due to him, he requested to be transferred to fighter. On October 17, 1944, he was shot down in a P-51 on an escort mission to Hanover. He died at the age of 23.

Bert Stiles' first collection of poems and essays, including the *Saturday Evening Post*, but *Serenade to the Big Bird* is his most personal work. It reveals the characteristics of the typical young American, and the book is written with sensitiveness, laconic humor and a sense of the tragic. It is sometimes gay, sometimes poignant, and even tragic. Bert Stiles' great achievement is that he has been able to express in words the spirit and the aspirations of American youth at its best.

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