

# Just a Bit About Books of the Day

## AND ABOUT A CONNECTICUT ARTIST BY A WATERFORD (CONN.) ARTIST

HENRY C. White is a resident of Waterford. Himself an artist of recognized talent, he has just compiled a biography of his friend, companion and teacher, Dwight William Tryon. Tryon, perhaps one of the most famous Connecticut artists since Trumbull, was also perhaps the leading American landscape painter of the last three generations. His recent death brought sorrow to the world of art and to the world of pedagogy. Mr. White has helped, in his biography (Houghton, Mifflin, Boston, \$7.50) to broaden proper appreciation of a great man and his great work. "The Life and Art of Dwight William Tryon" will be prized by artists, among whom Mr. Tryon was known as "an artists' artist," and by many who merely appreciate art. It deserves reading by others who might not be included in those two classifications. For, like many artists, Mr. White's appreciation of the beauty of rhythm creeps into his prose. The book has not the technical merit of those biographies so profusely turned out by professional writers, but it has other merits, just as great.

This review cannot pretend to treat of the artistic merits of Dwight William Tryon. The reviewer is incapable. Bearing that in mind, go on:

Dwight William Tryon was born in Glastonbury. He was early separated from his father by death. His youth was spent largely with relatives in Glastonbury. After a tolerable schooling for the day, he went as a youth into the Colt factory, became a machinist. Then he got a job in the bookstore of Brown and Goss, at Main and Asylum streets, Hartford. His mother was caretaker in the Wadsworth Athenaeum, and young Tryon spent spare time gazing at pictures. Mark Twain knew young Tryon, knew that he was a dilettante painter. When Tryon requested advice on his ambition to give up business, go to France, study art, and follow art for a livelihood, Mark

Twain advised him to stick to business.

But Tryon gave up business, went to France, studied art. His American associates were Robert Brandegee, Montague Flagg and Charles Flagg, and William Bailey Faxon. They studied under Jacquesson. These students worked hard. They learned much. To a small degree, Tryon benefited also from the painting and instruction of Daubigny. The French landscape painter Guillemet "gave Tryon some substantial aid."

And of course Tryon educated himself. He wandered about, saw most of western and southern Europe, painted some very good pictures. Then, after two years, he came home. His life story, by the way, is particularly interesting because Tryon seems to have been a favorite of luck. He spent his money in France, had not the cash to buy a return passage, then quite by chance managed to sell three pictures for a good sum. All his life fortune behaved like that to him, although it must not be thought that Tryon didn't make as many opportunities as came and knocked on his door, or patted him on the back.

Returning to New York, Tryon was beset with what is perhaps a characteristic of the Yankee—the yearning to have a regular income outside his artistic earnings; a sound rock on which to build financially. So he opened an art school. It was successful and insured a tolerable income.

From then on, Tryon grew steadily in fame and fortune. He became professor of art at Smith college and, as such professorships go, he was phenomenally successful. He virtually made the Smith college museum—the Tryon gallery now. The late Charles L. Freer became a friend and a patron. Tryon did some of his best paintings for Freer and the Freer gallery at Washington is indebted to Tryon for some of its finest paintings.

But Tryon's life was interesting

aside from his interest in art. He was thoroughly the New Englander, the Connecticut Yankee. He loved the sea. Some of his best paintings are of the sea. He knew the sea. He spent his summers at South Dartmouth, below New Bedford and there he was of a type with the native fishermen. He may have painted when he was ashore, but during the day he went fishing. He loved to sail and designed sloops and catboats that could foot it well before the wind. His fishing might have earned him a living; he frequently brought home food enough for many families.

Tryon apparently even looked like a fisherman. Careless of his clothes, he dressed the part. The natives of South Dartmouth accepted him, too, which is a high compliment to character. Imagine (by comparison) the natives of Noank accepting as a companion a cloak-and-suit man from New York!

Tryon died five years ago. Some of his best work has wide fame. His marines inspire multitudes. His landscapes are perhaps even better known.

Fortunately, the publishers have adorned Mr. White's book with many splendid engravings. More than thirty of these appear in a supplement, as made from photographs. The reproduction is excellent, as becomes a book of this nature. Incidentally, the printing and binding of the whole book is excellent.

### Favors U. S. Loan to Soviet.

NEW YORK, Dec. 20. (AP)—A government loan to Soviet Russia or an export guarantee to American businessmen in order to develop Russian trade in this country, is favored by Senator William E. Borah, chairman of the foreign relations committee.

### Gendarmes Rout Communists.

SOFIA, Bulgaria, Dec. 20. (AP)—Gendarmes with fixed bayonets today clashed with a group of 17 young Communists on trial for dangerous agitation when they persisted in disorderly conduct in the courtroom.