

BOOK REVIEW

Agony and the Ecstasy

Ordinarily, historical novels settle on my mind like pizza on my stomach—with a clank!

The trouble is that most historical novelists insist upon injecting wildly improbable heroes into actual situations.

Irving Stone, however, has avoided this pitfall so successfully that his book, THE AGONY AND THE ECSTASY is in its second year on the best seller lists.

Stone's corrective technique is simple. Stone merely takes a real person, an authentic hero, and makes his life the subject of his novel.

Stone's hero is Michelangelo Buonarroti, architect of St. Peter's, sculptor, artist lover, devoted son and brother, physician, teacher ... the list runs on and on.

But the purpose of the book is not to list the achievements of its principal. Listing achievements is the work of history. The work of the author is to discover the driving force which makes achievement possible.

Such a genius is one of the answers. A masterpiece cannot be effected unless its creator has talent. But there have been many talented derelicts, wasters of their genius.

Stone goes beyond the genius of his hero into his character. Michelangelo emerges as a hot blooded, intemperant man who defied kings and Popes, his family and his friends to avoid compro-

mise. He steals the mistress of his patron and loves her with passion and compassion, cruelty and intensity. And then, compelled by his work, he abandons her.

He breaks his contracts, brawls with his fellow artists, behaves boorishly in public and pawns forgeries on unsuspecting customers.

Yet he dies trying to complete a commission, endears himself as a good and faithful friend to nobility and peasants, faithfully maintains a chaste love affair with a religious and well born woman and exposes contractors who attempt to defraud the Pope.

Amid all these contradictions, Michelangelo never waivers in his devotion to the agony of creation and the ecstasy of accomplishment. He is always true to his work.

Author Stone never quite finds out why, though. It could be that he becomes so fascinated by the search that he forgets what he is looking for. It is also possible that Stone realizes the reader must come to his own conclusion.

At any rate, THE AGONY AND THE ECSTASY makes tremendous reading. Michelangelo lived for 90 years at the height of the Renaissance. The Medici, the Borgia, Raphael, Da Vinci, Savonarola march through Stone's pages in a tableau of man's reawakening interest in the affairs of men.

THE LITTLE THINGS ON CAMPUS

Brothers From Other Lands

by jagjit singh

When I mentioned the name Zanzibar to one of my friends recently, her immediate reaction was, "it sounds very romantic." I spent that whole evening scratching my head and wondering about the possible association of romance with Zanzibar. It was after a great deal of deliberation and thought that I decided to write on it this week.

No clue is available as to the year the island was discovered. As far back as 60 A.D., when a Greek merchant living in Egypt wrote the first known sailing directions to the Indian Ocean, the Periplus of the Erythraean Sea, ships already were riding the monsoon to Zanzibar. Today high-pooped Arabs still come to Zanzibar. Like migratory birds, they sail down on the northeast monsoon with cargoes of dates, incense, dried shark, Persian carpets, and brassware. Waiting until the winds change, they return home with mangrove poles, tea, coffee, sugar, and maize.

The island of Zanzibar lies only 25 miles off the East African Coast. The island attracted Arabs, Persians, and Indians (some say even the Chinese). Portuguese, following Vasco da Gama, had trading ports here from the early 1500's until they were ousted by Arabs nearly two centuries later. In 1832 Seyyid Said, Sultan of Oman, moved his capital here from Muscat. Late in the century, when European powers began to take feverish interest in Africa, they sliced away virtually all of Zanzibar's mainland possessions. To stabilize his interests, the Sultan in 1890 arranged for a British protectorate. Today the Sultanate is limited to Zanzibar, Pemba, and the tiny islands that surround them.

Here are peoples from Arabia, the Persian Gulf, India, Africa, and China. The mixture of cultures is well illustrated by the number of languages that are widely spoken throughout the islands: There are many dialects of Bantu, in addition to Swahili, as well as Arabic, Indian languages (like Gujarati, etc.) and English. It is the meeting ground of African and Oriental, and affords one of the most notable instances in the world of satisfactory cooperation between diverse racial and social groups within a single community. Students of sociology and anthropology should make a special note of it.

Eighty years ago, the island was the center of the slave trade. The world-famous Zanzibar slave market handled 20,000 slaves a year — fresh-caught cannibals from the Congo, fierce Borans from the desert, white Caucasians from Russia, four-foot pygmies from the Mountains of the Moon and the giant seven-foot Watusi. Yet there was no racial prejudice. Intermarriage was common and there was no discrimination against the children of such marriages. As a result, the tensions that exist in most parts of Africa are virtually unknown here. Some will even venture to say that this is the happiest place in Africa. The season is simple.

In Zanzibar they don't try to force their ideas on each other. People go to the island from South Africa to get away from the rioting, and from Kenya to relax from the Mau Mau. They rest there, say how wonderful it is, and then return to their own countries to continue the struggle.

Population of the islands combined is about 300,000 of which a very large majority are native Africans, and the Arab, Indian and Chinese minorities number 50,000, 18,000 and 1,000 respectively.

The island of Zanzibar is brilliantly green and surrounded by a white border of surf. It is about fifty miles long and twenty-four miles wide. North of it, separated by a channel so shallow it seems almost possible to wade across at low tide, is a smaller island called Pemba. Pemba is about half the size of Zanzibar and much wilder, famous for bull fights, wild boars and some say even witches! Zanzibar is within six degrees of the equator, very fertile, and nearly every day there is at least a brief shower. Everywhere are orchards of clove trees, evergreens thirty feet high, laid out in orderly rows. It is the world's greatest producer of cloves.

Although Zanzibar has lost some of the trade prestige it once enjoyed, it seems unconcerned over the loss. Prosperous in its own quiet way, it has time for friendliness and retains an old world charm. The town and its people, we are told, seem to have been snatched from some Arabian Nights tale and transplanted here beside the blue sea!

There is something else that is unique about Zanzibar. There is no room for you to get lost in Zanzibar City. You just keep on walking and you come out at the sea front, on the bank of the creek, or find yourself back where you started. But you may have a bit of difficulty finding some specific place you want to go.

I have not said a word about women's dresses in Zanzibar. Moslem Arab women glide like shadows through passageways. Theirs is the black, outer dresse of seclusion, or purdah, from a word meaning "veil". Swahili women are as awake to fashion as Western women. But there style is a question of pattern and color, not cut. The bold designs for the cloth are drawn in Zanzibar; many embody phrases in Kiswahili and call to many minds the bright aloha shirts of Hawaii. Some are immediate hits, but woe to the merchant who has heavily stocked a pattern that doesn't click! And Indian women in shimmering saris add color accents to Zanzibar.

Several names have been given to this island of paradise: "clove scented Zanzibar", "happy island", "exotic Zanzibar", "island idyll: Zanzibar", "Zanzibar island jewel". If you are planning to take a trip around the world or visiting East Africa or are finding it hard to select a spot for your honeymoon, Zanzibar would be a good stop. Perhaps our Kotecha, a student in architecture at the University could answer some of your queries personally. He lives at Selleck and is rather a quiet guy but tall and handsome.

Nationwide Criticism of NSA

(Editor's Note: The National Student Association has spawned a considerable amount of literature during its existence. Much of this material been published in campus papers across the United States. Since NSA is now an issue before our Council and campus, we are presenting some of that information below, without comment. It was previously printed in the Denver Clarion.)

Congressional Record pages 12517-12519. July 14, 1958. J. B. Matthews, expert on Communism in America: "Having read the minutes, resolutions, issues of the National Student News, booklets, brochures and sundry other documents published by the United States National Student Association during the past 10 years, I wish to state that I have reached the following conclusions:

"(1) That the policies and program of the USNSA embrace the important lines of the Communist Party insofar as these touch upon questions involved in student life and activity on the campuses of American colleges and universities."

The New Guard, August, 1961 (a publication of the Young Americans for Freedom), p. 3: "Our objections to the current

status of the National Student Association, as seen elsewhere in the magazine, are threefold:

"First: NSA's definition of a student issue is so broad that there seem to be no prudent limits to the subjects discussed and legislated upon at its national congress. These are subjects, we feel, which are beyond the realm of the student.

"Second: While actual NSA organization and activity on most campuses is so weak as to be scarcely non-existent, the organization suddenly acquires the right to speak for 'every million students' every summer when NSA leaders convene.

"And Third: Through a hierarchy of officials who seem to have no visible means of financing, NSA has been successful in making its national congress the rubber stamp for the left-wing ideology of its paid professional staff members."

Kay Wonderlic, vice president of the Northwestern University student body, August, 1961: "During the past several months, the NSA has been the subject of severe and largely justified, criticism at the constitutional, procedural and political levels. Students from across the country, realize that something was amiss within the organ-

ization and demanding correctional reforms, have been met with silence, insults or evasion by association officials."

Chicago Tribune, April 23, 1961: "The left wing members of National Student Association showed the conservative members where they stand yesterday at an Illinois-Wisconsin regional meeting on the University of Chicago campus.

"Those of the right wing brave enough to speak out found themselves subjected to smirks, giggles and stony stares from the left wingers during the committee meeting. During the legislative session it was a clear cut case of the might of the left over the weaker right."

Thomas Rowley Jr. graduate of University of Illinois at Urbana on his experiences: "I suggest that in the future the following statement precede all NSA declarations: 'The opinions and views here expressed are the views of the delegates and not necessarily those of the student bodies they claim to represent.'"

Timothy Jenkins, National Affairs Vice President of NSA on William F. Buckley, Jr., conservative editor and speaker, on the floor of the latest convention: "I think now we have unmasked in the final reality what exactly exists behind the facade of the conservative image, because now we see the base, and the debased, colonial, repressive, slave-owning kind of mentality that can exist in a hard, fascist type of regime."

Robert Schuman, National Review, September 9, 1961: "Last week, for instance, the NSA leadership voided the badge of Scott Stanley Jr., a delegate from the University of Kansas, on the grounds that enrollment in his school had declined since the last congress. (Actually it had increased slightly.) The real reason: Stanley is a director

of Young Americans for Freedom."

Harvard Student Council report on the National Student Association majority view, 1958: "A great deal of concern and thorough debate characterized the Council's decision on the issue of USNSA. It was generally the opinion of the Council that the funds of the Student Council, both human and economic, could better be spent in other fields; and even should there have been unlimited resources available, the NSA would not justify the expenditure."

Carol Dawson, leader in the Young Republican National Federation, September 1960, on the convention last year: "It is obvious to me—as it was to many people there—that the congress certainly does not represent American student opinion."

M. Stanton Evans, editor of the Indianapolis Star, November, 1958: "NSA, in its function as a two-way transmission belt for political ideas, means to advance one sort of political ideas only — those of the left-wing variety."

Hank Brown, former president University of Colorado student body, while in office on the decision to withdraw from NSA: "It was made after we decided there was nothing we could do within the organization to straighten it out. At first we thought we could."

Song number nine, NSA songbook, 12th Congress, page 14: To the tune of "Song of the Vagabonds:" Come all yet union haters,

Red and labor baiters, Fight, Fight, Fight for Capital! Crush the bloody saber, Crush the rights of labor, Fight, Fight, Fight for Capital! Damn, Damn, damn, Damn, Damn the stupid masses, Fight Fight Fight! For the upper classes!



On Campus Cheating

To the Editor:

The epidemic of student cheating reported by the Rag is probably not new. The subject is periodically dredged to the foreground. It usually results in shocking a few people, causing them to make dire pronouncements about the degeneration of today's youth. Others shrug their shoulders and conclude there's no use trying to fight the system. Still others try to be reformers.

From the latter come a raft of new systems to rival the old. One University uses the "tap method." A good many schools or departments of schools use some variety of the "honor system." The basic difference between these systems and the old system is that the students become the policemen instead of the instructor. I'll take the instructor.

If a student is going to cheat — he would certainly have a lot more opportunity to cheat if the instructor is out of the room. If the student isn't going to cheat, why should he care if the instructor is in the room. Non-cheaters would thus suffer a greater disadvantage than before. The "syndicates" would have a field day.

Then too, I would much rather prefer to have an impartial teacher judging my actions rather than another student who might report me to get even for a personal score.

Sure there should be reform, but it's not going to come through any system. True, the honor system can work in select small groups, but as other observers have pointed out, it would not work for the student body as a whole.

Reform, if it is going to come, can come from two sources. The ideal would be a fundamental change in emphasis. Education would become meaningful as a process which makes the student more aware of life, rather than just being a steppingstone to a straight "A" average or a plush job. This process would start in the home when parents say "Do the best job you can, and we'll still love you even if you don't get straight A's," rather than "Get straight A's or else."

Failing short of the ideal, it would be helpful if teachers were less lax in their test-giving. Giving the same tests to two sections or for several years in a row cannot help but lead to cheating. And who knows, the courses might even become more interesting if the teacher exerted himself enough to make up new lectures and new tests. Society needs policemen to protect the innocent, its not likely that things will change.

Spice

Goldwater

Dear Sir:

In this unlikely event that anybody cares, your paper has inaccurately represented Senator Goldwater's views, or has distorted them.

Chapter ten of Conscience of a Conservative does not evidence a "peace or war" attitude. A policy of containment involves the risk of war and leads to probable defeat. A policy of victory involves the risk of war, but holds forth the promise of victory. Goldwater discusses policies and "guideposts" which can be observed even now to help bring us cold war victories, with a minimal risk of war.

From chapter seven, it is clear that Goldwater is opposed to a proportional income tax, but to the consicatory and immoral graduated tax.

He values foreign aid, but not when it promotes state socialism, or goes to countries not in need, or to countries that are not anti-communist.

His chief objection to federal aid to education is that it inevitably would mean federal control over education, a step backward toward the omnipotent state.

Goldwater has denounced Robert Welch's excesses.

Sincerely,

Conscientious Conservative



(Courtesy of Omaha World Herald)



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