varied datelines from Munsan—press base for the Kaesong (now Panmunjom) truce talks—is neither profound nor tenable.

For Americans who would become better acquainted with the environs of this peculiar war half way 'round the world, many of Kahn's snapshots serve as an excellent introduction. But Americans who would better understand the cause which "men of so many nationalities are fighting for on the Korean firing line," may as well apply the required $2.75 to the taxes required to finance that cause, however obscure. DAVID STOLBERG

The Feel of Rome

Rome and a Villa, by Eleanor Clark. New York: Doubleday. $4.00

No guidebook this, and if you haven't at least seen Rome I don't know what you will get from it. For it is more illuminating than informational, and more rhapsodic than either. If you do know Rome, however, you will find Miss Clark's prose poems—for that is what the various chapters are—exciting reading. The illustrations, by Eugene Berman, fit the text beautifully.

The chapters are, to be sure, a rather mixed lot, which is natural enough considering they were written separately and appeared in different magazines or reviews. I found the one on Hadrian's villa perhaps the most appealing; Miss Clark has got the feel of the place, with the uneasy sense it gives one of a presence—can it be the emperor himself?—hovering about the ruins. The chapter on Giuliano, the bandit, on the other hand, quite aside from the fact that it has nothing to do with Rome, is hardly more than journalism and rather flat. Delightful and really moving is the evocation of the Roman poet Belli in the last chapter; Miss Clark is one of the few foreigners to attempt a study of this genius, whose language is the only barrier to his recognition as one of the truly great poets of his century. The initial chapters likewise—on the Campidoglio and the fountains of Rome—make arresting reading and are full of vivacity and insight. Not everyone would use the word "shocking" quite so often as Miss Clark, and many would fail to see the "indecency" in the very existence of so many fountains but such is her view and her privilege.

Indeed, the charm and the appeal of this book is in its manner, which is a reflection of the exuberance of the writer. One could make a small and exciting anthology of Miss Clark's perceptive phrases. Inevitably impressionism exacts its price, and here and there exuberance frustrates logic, sometimes even grammar. These studies are, in fact, a mélange of shrewdness of perception and of arbitrary caprice, sensitivity and flamboyance, rapture and—now and again—mistrust. *Pazienza,* so is Rome. THOMAS G. BERGIN

Brief Mention

Leaders of Men, by Woodrow Wilson. Edited by T. H. Vail Motter. Princeton University Press. $2.00

This little book by Woodrow Wilson will interest those who regard most of our Presidents as illiterates. So many of Wilson's speeches were fireside chats on a higher level. Obviously Wilson was no ward-heeler, but a man of some uncommon sense and values. Of Robert Lee, and of genius in general, he said, "When you come into the presence of a leader of men you know you have come into the presence of fire—that it is best not incautiously to touch that man." Two decades ago Dwight Morrow, United States Senator, was photographed reading Herodotus, and certain Americans viewed this act of intellection with astonishment.

War on Critics, by Theodore L. Shaw. Boston: Stuart Art Gallery. $3.50

Theodore L. Shaw writes that fatigue is at the bottom of esthetics, and that most of the contempory critics have not only very tired blood, but are Barabbases besides. It is a very creditable point of view, and Mr. Shaw should receive the favors of the muses for simply making these two honorable remarks. There is so much thievery in literature at present that honesty itself is a form of genius.

The Man With the Blue Guitar, by Wallace Stevens. New York: Knopf. $3.50

Wallace Stevens, who is vice president of an insurance company, has received many accolades as a poet. His "Harmonium" has been read for about a generation, and one comes to this book with the rather histrionic title, "The Man with the Blue Guitar," with abundant expectations. It is pleasant, plastic verse (see "Come Celestial Paramours") but without any great replenishing virtues.

The Selected Letters of Thomas Gray, edited with introduction by Joseph Wood Krutch. New York: Farrar, Straus and Young. $3.75

Here are some of the letters of Thomas Gray. Mr. Krutch, in a platitudinous introduction, tells us that Gray had a great attachment for his mother, and desired to be buried in her tomb. Mr. Krutch points out with pedestrian sense that there is nothing low or unfilial in such a desire, but it will take more than pedestrianism to combat the idea that no man can love his mother without bearing the Oedipus stigma.

The enthusiasts of Thomas Gray had better omit the preface and go to the epistles. Says Mr. Krutch: "One notices, of course, the abstract nouns, the capitalized personifications, the tendency to use specific details only as symbols of the general." One does not notice anything of the sort unless one is a spurious, public-school Longinus.

Letters

Kept out of Mischief

Fun is fun, and "$655,000 for Your Thought" brightens the *Freeman's* issue of July 28. But is the Ford Foundation so inept after all? Twenty-five philosophers isolated on a permanent staff in an Institute for Philosophical Research at only $25,200 per philosopher, are kept out of mischief in business and government, and what could be wiser than that?

New York City WILLIAM A. RHODES

New Subscriber Votes "Yea"

Believers in fundamental, individual human rights should rejoice that a publication of the *Freeman's* caliber is so ably presenting the case for the real progressives of this nation. As a brand-new subscriber I am quite willing to cast a favorable vote for the calm, reasonable and well-documented approach I have found in my first few issues. . . .

Greensboro, N. C. W. L. BEERMAN, JR.

"Eisenhower's Opportunity"

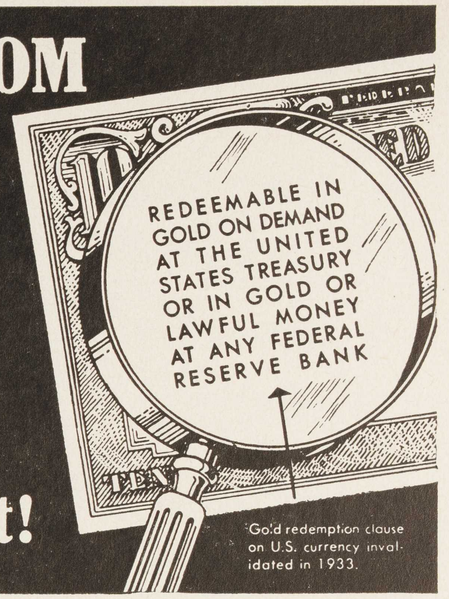
Let me congratulate you on your splendid and enlightening editorial for Eisenhower [July 28]. One wonders whether, surrounded as he is by such stalwart Deweyites as Duff, Adams *et al.*, any kindly constructive suggestions for the preservation of Americanism *contra* socialism or worse can get to him.

Denver, Col. LEON V. ALMIRALL

It is not often one finds the *Freeman* naive, but it seems to me your editorial, "Eisenhower's Opportunity," falls flat into that category . . . the Eastern Republicans who are Internationalists are Internationalists first and Republicans second. Many of them hold Governor Stevenson in high esteem because he is a proven Internationalist. . . . Now, should General Eisenhower miraculously follow your advice, which would be tantamount to thumbing his nose at his whole career . . . then you may be sure that these Eastern Republicans will find a place to go and it won't be in the General's direction. If you can honestly believe that Eisenhower will desert Dulles, "bipartisanship," UN, and the prevailing American delusion of One World . . . then you sound more like an editorial in *Life* or a speech to the League of Women Voters.

Phoenix, Ariz. FRANK C. BROPHY

FREEDOM can't exist without this binding contract!



Gold redemption clause on U.S. currency invalidated in 1933.

America's envied standard of living has been built by faith in contracts . . . faith in performance by the buyer, faith in payment by the seller. Then a third party . . . the government . . . stepped in by changing the definition of the most important factor in every contract—the U.S. dollar, and by abrogating the citizens' right to redeem currency for gold coin.

Money is a commodity as well as a medium of exchange. An oversupply of it decreases its value. And there is a growing over-supply of currency in the U.S. today — produced by government policies, such as monetizing its own debt, which can be practiced only when the control of the public purse has been taken from the people.

Industry is doing wonders to advance the individual's standard of living. For example, Kennametal hard cemented carbides have tripled the productivity of metal-cutting industries . . . and have greatly increased the output potential of coal and other mineral mines.

On the other hand—printing press money is robbing the individual—of his earnings, of his savings, of return on his investments, of his ambition to furnish enterprise capital. These are the material factors of freedom—when they wither, individual liberty dies.

We must return to the Gold Coin Standard★ . . . which gives every citizen the right to redeem his currency for gold coin when he is displeased with government policy. It is a binding contract on government that preserves the freedom of its citizens.

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★ **WHAT YOU CAN DO ABOUT THE GOLD STANDARD**

Ask your Senators and Congressman if they wish to help restore the Gold Standard with sound money redeemable in gold coin on demand. Write to The Gold Standard League, Latrobe, Pennsylvania for further information. The League is a voluntary association of American citizens joined together to prevent collapse of our monetary system.

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