

Best Sellers (Scranton, Pa.)

AMD, 32, 8, 1

9/1/61

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Delibes, Miguel

Day. Aug. 21, 1961. 190p. \$3.00. (Hb)

The Path

A refreshing little novel translated from the Spanish by John and Brita Haycraft, *The Path* is set in a small Castilian village where every one is an "individualist." The central figure is the 11-year-old son of the village cheesemaker, Daniel, who on the eve of his departure for schooling in the city to fulfill his father's ambition for him, recalls many an incident of his childhood involving the villagers and supporting his reluctance to leave them all behind him. Hunting hawks with a captive owl, making a match between the ugly schoolmaster and the burly sister of his closest pal, stealing apples from the rich girl's orchard, climbing a greased pole to win a 50-peseta note—all the little adventures are well sketched and warm with humor, some of which is earthy but never distasteful.

* * *

FUNDACION MIGUEL DELIBES
Miguel Delibes

Una refrigerante pequeña novela traducida del español por John y Brita Haycraft, "El Camino" tiene lugar en un pueblecito castellano donde todo el mundo es individualista. La figura central es el hijo de 11 años de un fabricante de queso, Daniel que en ~~la~~ víspera de su partida hacia la escuela de la ciudad para satisfacer la ambición de su padre, para él, revoda muchos incidentes de su niñez envolviendo a los pisanos y soportando su repugnancia para dejarlos a todos tras él. Cazando halcones con un ~~buho~~ buho cautivo, cizañando entre el feo maestro y la hermana gorda de su más íntimo ~~palca~~ camarada robando manzanas del huerto de una muchacha rica, trepando por el palo sebáceo (grāsiento) para ganar un billete de 50 pesetas, todas las pequeñas aventuras están bien perfiladas y con humor, algunas de las cuales son *realistas* pero nunca desapacibles.

(1) haciendo más bien de intermediario (Celestina)



Des Moines Sunday Register
Des Moines, Iowa.

10/1/61

Deft The Path, by Miguel Delibes; John Day.

\$3. Set in a Castilian village, this short Spanish novel creates a vivid sense of place. The young hero, 11-year-old Daniel, about to leave for a distant school, has a sharp child's-eye view of the hypocrisies and outrages of ingrown, slighty dotty villagers. Generally, it's a pleasant story with a deftly handled re-creation of a child's wisdom and view of tragedy.
—J. B.



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—J. B.

"El Camino" por Miguel Delibes

Accidido en un pueblo castellano, esta novela corta española crea un vivo sentido de lugar. El joven héroe de 11 años Daniel, pronto a partir para una escuela lejana tiene un buen golpe de vista de las hipocresías y ultrajes de los mermados y ligeramente maniáticos aldeanos. Por lo general es una historia acredada, con una nueva creación manejada diestramente por el sentido común de un niño y vista de tragedia. J.B.



THE PATH by Miguel Delibes, John Day, \$3.

Daniel, aged 11, is about to leave his isolated Castilian village for a distant school and he remembers with great pleasure the life he has led in his village. There are some odd characters and the whole is suffused with humor and nostalgia. The tone and temper is strongly similar to American memories of small town life when the world was innocent and life was good.



AMD, 32, 8, 1

FUNDACIÓN MIGUEL DELIBES
9/15/51

The Sacramento River
Sacramento, Calif
5

6
"El Camino" por Miguel Delibes.....

(Sacramento, California)

Daniel, de 11 años va a partir de su aislado pueblecito castellano para una escuela lejana (distante) y recuerda con gran placer la vida que él ha llevado en el pueblo. Hay personajes raros y todo ello es difundido con humor y nostalgia. El tono y temple muy similar a las memorias americanas de la vida de pequeñas ciudades cuando el mundo era inocente y ~~la~~ la vida buena.



Grass-Roots Spain

THE PATH

By Miguel Delibes. Trans. by John and Brita Haycraft. Day. 190p. \$3



4

Miguel Delibes has won several literary prizes with his novels. This is the first of his works to be translated into English, and it is a happy choice.

Centering about Daniel, an eleven-

year-old who is about to be sent to the city for further education, the book is primarily an account of life in a typical Spanish village of today, where few modern customs have crept in. On the eve of his departure Daniel reviews most of his short existence, his friendships, difficulties, embarrassments and, in short, the many painful aspects connected with a child's growing awareness of the imperfections and inconsistencies of the adult world.

The author's ability to see inside the mind of a young boy is perhaps the most unusual aspect of this book. But he shows skill in bringing to life the villagers with their physical characteristics, superstitions, frugality, poverty and a narrowness which does not preclude occasional flashes of generosity and nobility.

Though hardly a masterpiece, *The Path* presents a true and, on the whole, likable picture of life in rural Spain, and somehow gives evidence of the villager's desire for a better life in keeping with the world's material progress. Spain, which remains one of the least-known European countries, has much to offer thoughtful Americans. A translation such as this helps to reveal some of the unknown aspects of its strongly individualistic population.

PIERRE COURTINES

AMERICA (Phila., Pa.) 10/3/61

MIGUEL DELIBES
UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA
Miguel Delibes

"El Camino" por Miguel Delibes.....

Miguel Delibes ha ganado varios premios literarios con sus novelas. Esta es la primera de sus obras traducida al inglés y es una feliz elección.

Centrado en Daniel, un muchacho de 11 años, que va a ser enviado a la ciudad para ampliar su educación. El libro es principalmente un relato de la vida de un pueblo español, hoy en día, donde han sido introducidas pocas costumbres modernas. En la víspera de su partida, Daniel recuerda la mayor parte de su corta existencia, sus amistades, dificultades, turbaciones y en una palabra, los muchos dolorosos aspectos relacionados con la vigilancia de las imperfecciones crecientes de un niño y la incompatibilidad del mundo adulto.

La habilidad del autor para ver en la mente de un muchacho, es quizás, el aspecto más corriente de este libro. Pero muestra destreza en hacer vivir a los aldeanos con sus características físicas, supersticiones, frugalidad, pobreza y una estrechez que no excluye (impide) destellos ocasionales de generosidad y nobleza.

Aunque apenas una obra maestra, "El Camino" presente un verdadera y en su totalidad, agradable descripción de la vida rural en España y de algún modo da evidencia del deseo de los aldeanos de llevar una vida mejor en contacto con los progresos del mundo.

España, que permanece como uno de los países europeos menos conocidos, tiene mucho que ofrecer a los previsores americanos. Una traducción como ésta ayuda a revelar algunos de los aspectos desconocidos de una población fuertemente individualista.



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The Path by Miguel Delibes
(John Day, \$3.00).

Lives there a male author who has not in some way, reminisced with pen about boyhood? This Spanish author does it in this delightful little tale of a boy named Daniel, the son of a village cheese maker, who is about to be, unwillingly, sent from his remote and beloved valley to a school in the city. Memories and loves overwhelm him.

Many of the incidents are oft told ones. Boys stealing fruit. Boys plagued with tag-a-long girls. Boys coping with sisters. Boys doing feats of daring. Boys learning of sex and babies. But the novel has a quaintness that makes the oft told tale quite fresh. Part of its picturesqueness derives from the nicknames of the characters — the Pawn (the schoolmaster), the Pepper-pods (spinster sisters), the Leverest (more spinster sisters), the Owl (Daniel, himself), and Cowpat and Mangy (his friends).

The book is at best when projecting the logic of children. The reader seems to slip into it to eavesdrop when Daniel and his friends, after much discussion, conclude that newborn humans are covered with fur and have no eyes and ears but a big sucker or when the boys are astounded by the ire of the eldest Pepper-pod when they, experimenting with sun rays and crystal, ignite her cat, or as Daniel hesitates between using his precious coin to buy a candy or putting it the funeral offering.

Sunday
Baton Rouge, La

MD

12/3/61

AMD, 32, 8, 1

FUNDACION MIGUEL DELIBES
Miguel Delibes

"El Camino" por Miguel Delibes.....

Existe un autor varón que no nos haya recordado en ¹/₂ algún modo, con la pluma acerca de la niñez?

Este autor español lo hace en esta deliciosa historia corta de un muchacho llamado Daniel, el hijo de un quesero de pueblo, que va a ser enviado, en contra de su voluntad, de su remoto y querido pueblo a una escuela de la ciudad.

Le abruman los recuerdos y amores.

Muchos de los incidentes han sido dichos ya muchas veces. Muchachos robando frutas. Muchachos (plagued with tag-a-long girls) (asediados por muchachas) Muchachos (coping with sisters) Muchachos haciendo juegos de manos atrevidos. Muchachos aprendiendo (of sex and babies). Pero la novela tiene una cosa extraña, que hace de la historia tantas veces oída, una completamente nueva. Parte de su pintoresquismo nace de los apodos de los protagonistas: The Pawn (el maestro), The pepper-pods (hermanas solteronas) The Owl (el mismo Daniel) y Cowpat y Mangy (sus amigos).

El lector parece deslizarse dentro de él to eavesdrop cuando Daniel y sus amigos, después de mucha discusión deciden que las almas recién nacidas se cubren con piel y no tienen ojos ni orejas sino un gran chupón o cuando los muchachos están aterrados por la ira de la mayor Pepper-pod (solterona) cuando ella os, experimentando con los rayos solares y un cristal prendieron su gato o cómo vacilaba Daniel entre usar su preciosa moneda para comprar un confite o ponerla en la ofrenda del funeral,

(1) mirar a hurtadillas o cosa parecida



FUNDACIÓN MIGUEL DELIBES

AMD, 32, 8, 1

11

Agreeable!

THE PATH: By Miguel Delibes. 190 pp. The John Day Company. \$3.

IS CHARM ENOUGH? If so, this little volume passes the test. However, one ponders why so slight an item should today be brought to America all the way from Spain.

"The Path" is a novel by Miguel Delibes, a popular Spanish writer, and is his first translation into English. It tells of people—good characterizations—in a Spanish village seen through the eyes of an eleven-year-old boy. There are amusing schoolboy pranks and adventures, with young lovers, narrow-minded old maids, and an all-understanding and kindly parish priest heading the cast. None of this is uniquely Spanish (it could just as well have been a French village) nor is there evidence of any unusual literary trail-blazing. But it is agreeable! W. H.

*The Courier Journal
Louisville, Ky. 10/8/64*

MD

FUNDACION

MIGUEL DELIBES

Miguel Delibes

AGRADABLE ;

Es suficiente encanto. si es así, este pequeño volumen pasa la prueba. Sin embargo uno considera(pondera) porqué se traería hoy a América desde España, un artículo tan de poca importancia.

"El Camino" es una novela de Miguel Delibes, un escritor popular español y es su primera traducida al inglés. El habla de las gentes, buenas caracterizaciones de un pueblo español, vistas a través de un muchacho de 11 años. Hay divertidas travesuras y aventuras de los escolares, con jóvenes enamorados, muchachas de mentes poco cultivadas y un inteligente y amable párroco encabezando el reparto. Nada de esto es únicamente español(podía justamente haber sido también un pueblo francés), ni hay manifestación alguna de ningún desusado destello literario. ¡Pero es agradable!.



FUNDACIÓN MIGUEL DELIBES
Miguel Delibes

San Francisco Examiner (Calif)

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BOOK TA 21000

AMD, 32, 8, 1

Looking Back in Nostalgia

9/27/61

Books



THE PATH. By Miguel Delibes. Translated by John and Brita Haycraft. The John Day Co.; 190 pages; \$3.

Reviewed by
David Conde

FIRST published in Spain in 1950, this novel is the first work of Author De-

(David Conde is a fiction writer and literary critic whose work has been published by Harper's Bazaar and the London Magazine. He recently completed a first novel.)

libes to appear in English translation. It is an affec-

tionate portrait of a small Castilian village, as seen through the eyes of an eleven year old boy.

Daniel, the cheesemaker's son, is on the eve of departure for the city and a higher education. Nostalgically, he recalls his childhood, his friends, and the eccentricities of the

fiercely individualistic villagers. Boyish pranks and pursuits succeed one another: shooting hawks, scorching an old maid's cat, climbing a greased pole on a fiesta day. Death

strikes once, and puppy love stirs.

This story is written with an unaffected simplicity that will either charm or bore you. I found it a little too cute.

MIGUEL DELIBES

Unlabeled

RECORDANDO CON NOSTALGIA

(Crítica hecha por David Vondo)

Publicado primeramente en España en 1950. Esta novela es la primera del autor Delibes que aparece traducida al inglés. Es un retrato afectuoso de un pueblécito castellano visto a través de un muchacho de 11 años.

Daniel, el hijo de un fabricante de queso está en la víspera de su partida para la ciudad para una educación más elevada. Nostálgicamente recuerda su niñez, sus amigos y las excentricidades de los aldeanos ferozmente individualistas. Pueriles travesuras y ocupaciones se suceden unas a otras, cazando halcones, abrasando al viejo gato de una criada, trepando por el palo grasiento un día de fiesta. La muerte golpea una vez y el amor del cachorro se agita.

Esta historia está escrita en un estilo sencillo que lo deleitará o lo cansará. Yo la encontré un poco demasiado ingeniosa.



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AMD, 32, 8, 1

DELIBES, Miguel. *The Path*; tr. from the Spanish by John and Brita Haycraft. 190pp. 61-12717. John Day. Aug. \$3. F

A lovely tale of life in a remote Castilian village as seen through the eyes of 11-year-old Daniel, son of the local cheesemaker. It is recounted in a series of flashbacks by Daniel as he lies awake his final night at home preparatory to leaving for a nearby city where, much against his wishes but as decreed by his father, he is to continue his schooling. And as he recalls his adventures with his chums, Roque and German, the good and evil things that had befallen the village residents, his great love of the valley, he naturally tends to doubt more and more the wisdom of his father's decision. For all fiction collections. — Thomas F. Houlihan, Lib. Asst., Council on Foreign Relations, Inc., N. Y. C.



Lj AUGUST 1961 *luj*

FUNDACIÓN
 MIGUEL
 DELIBES

DELIBES Miguel, "El Camino", traducido del español por John y Brita Haycraft, 190 páginas

Una encantadora historia de la vida de un pueblo remoto de Castilla, vista a través de un muchacho de 11 años, Daniel, hijo de un fabricante de queso de la localidad. Es referido fugazmente por Daniel, como permanece despierto su última noche en casa, preliminar de su partida hacia una ciudad cercana donde muy en contra de sus deseos, pero determinado por su padre, él va a continuar su instrucción elemental; Y como él recuerda sus aventuras con sus camaradas, Roque y Germán buenas y malas cosas que habían acontecido a los habitantes del pueblo, su gran amor al valle, él naturalmente contribuye para dudar cada vez más del sentido común de la decisión de su padre.-Para todas las colecciones de novelas- Thomas F. Houlihan, lib.Asst. Council on Foreign Relations; Inc. N.Y.C.



THE PATH. By Miguel Delibes. 190 pp. New York: The John Day Company. \$3.

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DANIEL THE OWL, the eleven-year-old son of the ambitious village cheesemaker, is about to be sent off to school in the city. One night he dreams through the life he has known in the village. "The Path," which marks the first appearance in English of a Spanish novelist who has been widely translated in Europe, is a series of gentle sketches of Castilian life as seen through the wondering eyes of a child. Nothing much happens, life is terribly simple and uncomplicated. A friend dies, the village spinsters are finally married off, the village priest keeps inveighing against the couples who wander into the woods. Daniel, remembering the small and intimate slice of life he has known, dimly realizes that he is embarking on a path that will alienate him forever from his quiet and serene village.

R. C. H.

HERALD TRIBUNE—BOOKS—SEPTEMBER 3, 1961

AMD, 32,8,1

The ~~Path~~ por Miguel Delibes.....

implorando

Daniel el buho, el muchacho de 11 años hijo del ambicioso fabricante de queso del pueblo, va a ser enviado a la escuela de la ciudad. Una noche sueña acerca de la vida que ha conocido en el pueblo. "El Camino", que marca la primera aparición en inglés de un novelista español, que ha sido traducido ampliamente en Europa, es una serie de suaves pasajes de la vida castellana, vistos a través de los ojos maravillados de un muchacho. Nada más sucede, la vida es terriblemente sencilla y sin complicaciones. Un amigo muere, las doncellas del pueblo se casan finalmente, el cura del pueblo se mantiene inveighing contra las parejas que deliran dentro de los bosques. Daniel, recordando la pequeña e íntima parte de su vida que ha conocido, oscuramente se da cuenta que está embarcando sobre un camino que le enajenará para siempre de su quieto y sereno pueblo.



San Francisco Chronicle
(Calif.) 9/10/61

79



THE PATH. By Miguel Delibes. John Day Co.; 190 pp.; \$3.

LIFE, love and death in an isolated Spanish village, seen through the eyes of an eleven year old boy, is the theme of this short novel. On the last night before he leaves his town to go off to school, young Daniel, the cheese-maker's son, recalls the people and events that have filled his brief life with interest, pleasure and pain. The result is a book of considerable character and charm. This is the tenth of

Miguel Delibes' novel but the first to be translated into English.

—R. T.

AMD, 32,8,1

FUNDACION MIGUEL DELIBES

Miguel Delibes

San Francisco California

"El Camino" por Miguel Delibes

Vida, amor y muerte en un pueblecito apartado español, visto a través de un muchacho de 11 años, es el tema de esta novela corta. En la última noche antes de abandonar el pueblo para ir a la escuela el pequeño Daniel, el hijo del quesero revoca las gentes y acontecimientos que han llenado su breve vida con interés, placer y dolor. El resultado es un libro de considerable carácter y encanto. Esta es la décima novela de Miguel Delibes, pero la primera traducida al inglés



A Boy's World in Spain

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PROVIDENCE, R.I.

3-11-62

AMD, 32, 8, 1

"THE PATH, by Miguel Delibes. Translated by John and Brita Haycraft. 190 pages. John Day. \$3.

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The UNESCO publication, "Index Translationum," supports with facts a likely surmise: that there are surprisingly few translations of Spanish and Spanish American authors published in this country in comparison, for instance, with those done in France. This is borne out by the case of "The Path." It found its way into French, German, Italian, Portuguese and, probably, Swedish and Czech—in this order—before being hastily launched into the orbit of the English speaking audience. The metaphor is not capricious, because only hurry could account for the inexactitudes of the translation. That the merits of the Spanish original are still retained is not the fault of the translators.

Miguel Delibes belongs to the generation who lived through the Spanish Civil War (1936-39) and the fearsome years following. He was born in 1920 in Valladolid, a provincial city northwest of Madrid, whose two main sources of pride are its having been for many years the site of the

Spanish court, and the purity of the Spanish spoken there. It also boasts of one of the oldest and best run newspapers in Spain, "El Norte de Castilla." Miguel Delibes is its associate editor. Besides, he teaches a course in history of civilization at the local School of Business Administration and, in his spare (!) time hunts and writes fiction. Although he has written about his travel impressions, his non-journalistic production consists, for the most part, of novels and short stories.

His first novel, "Long Is the Shadow of the Cypress" (1948) won the Nadal Prize, coveted Spanish literary award. Since then he has published, at a very even pace, a dozen works on a variety of subjects. The settings for the novels have included the city, the provincial city, and small town. But for Delibes, whose main concerns are basic human problems, the local color, the superficial and accidental are secondary.

This is evident in "The Path," which touches upon questions such as parenthood and filial love, Man's commitment to progress, the bitter and sweet aspects of love, the little ironies accompanying daily events, fate, destiny,

death. The action takes place in a small town in northern Castille and the characters are definitely Spanish. Yet Delibes, as a true artist, soars to the universal when he is firmly embedded in the particular. As a result, the book speaks seriously to everyone in a deceptively unpretentious, humorous tone; it can be read and enjoyed, with different reactions, at varying age levels.

The fact that the narrative is presented through the mind of an eleven-year-old does not limit its appeal or make it more or less plausible. Artistically, however, this is effective. The pains and joys of growing up, of maturing, appear in a double perspective at the same time illusory and real: that of the child protagonist reminiscing about significant events in his life, and the reader's realization that it is an adult who is writing.

The serene melancholy — akin to Cervantes' — which underlies this retrospective view is anticipated by the opening lines of the novel: "It could have happened in any other way and yet things had worked out like this."

A past narrated in flashbacks, the suggestion of an alternative which did not materialize, the unknown future of the protagonist, the added dimension of the reader's awareness of a reticent adult author, whose act of writing creates a present which tells nothing of the boy's future now most certainly passed, all eliminate conventional temporality and contribute, in the same measure, to the timelessness of the novel.

Stendhal said of the Spanish people that "they are ignorant of a mass of little truths (the puerile vanity of their neighbors); but they have a profound knowledge of great truths and enough character and wit to follow their consequences down to their ultimate effects." Delibes, in "The Path," offers a concrete and artistic example.

J. AMOR Y VAZQUEZ

(The reviewer is a member of the Romance Languages faculty at Brown University.)

EL MUNDO DE UN MUCHACHO EN ESPAÑA

MD

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La Publicación UNESCO "Index translationum" mantiene con hechos una probable suposición: que hay, en este país, sorprendentemente pocas traducciones de autores españoles y americanos españoles, en comparación por ejemplo con las hechas en Francia. Esto no ha sucedido en el caso de "El Camino" que fue acogido en el francés, alemán, italiano, portugués y probablemente en el sueco y Checoslovaco en este orden, antes de haber sido lanzado rápidamente dentro de la órbita de la audiencia de habla inglesa. La metáfora no es caprichosa, porque sólo la prisa podría dar cuenta (explicar el porqué) de las inexactitudes de la traducción. Que los méritos del original español se mantienen aún, no es falta de los traductores.

Miguel Delibes pertenece a la generación que vivió los años de la Guerra Civil Española (1936-39) y los temerosos años siguientes. Nació en 1920 en Valladolid una capital de provincia al noroeste de Madrid, cuyos dos principales orígenes de orgullo son el haber sido durante muchos años el lugar (sitio) de la Corte Española y donde se habla el español puro. Ella alardea también de uno de los más antiguos y mejor dirigidos periódicos en España "El Norte de Castilla". Miguel Delibes es su Director. Además él enseña el curso de Historia de Civilización en la Escuela de Comercio de la localidad y en su tiempo libre caza y escribe novelas. Aunque ha escrito acerca de sus

FUNDACIÓN MIGUEL DELIBES

2)

impresiones de viajes,, su producción no periodística consiste en su mayor parte en novelas e historias cortas.

Su primera novela, "La sombra del ciprés es alargada" (1948) ganó el premio Nadal, codiciado premio literario español. Desde entonces ha publicado al mismo ritmo una docena de obras con variedad de sujetos. Los marcos para las novelas han sido las grandes capitales, las provincias y las pequeñas ciudades. Pero para Delibes, cuyos principales problemas son los asuntos humanos, el pretexto local, lo superficial y accidental son secundarios.

Esto es evidente en "El Camino" que toca con preguntas tales como la parentela y el amor filial. La perpetración del hombre para progresar. los aspectos amargos y dulces del amor, las pequeñas ironías que acompañan a los acontecimientos diarios, suerte, destino, muerte. La acción tiene lugar en una pequeña ciudad al norte, Castilla, y los personajes son definitivamente españoles. Sin embargo, Delibes, como un artista verdadero se remonta a lo universal cuando está firmemente encajado en lo individual. Como resultado, el libro habla seriamente a todo el mundo en un tono chispeante y candidamente sin presunción puede leerse y deleitarse reaccionando de manera diferente en las diferentes edades. El hecho de que la narración es presentada a través de la mente de un jovencuelo de 11 años, no limita su apelación o la hace más o menos plausible. Artísticamente, sin embargo esto es efectivo. Las penas y alegrías de los adultos aparecen en una doble perspectiva al mismo tiempo ilusoria y real: la del muchacho protagonista recordando acerca de acontecimientos

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LIBROS
MIGUEL
DELIBES

3)

significantes en su vida y la realización del lector, que es un adulto quien está escribiendo.

La serena melancolía, análoga a Cervantes que es la razón fundamental de esta vista retrospectiva es anticipada en el prólogo de la novela "Pudo haber ocurrido de cualquier otro modo, sin embargo sucedió así".

Un pasado narrado fugazmente, la sugestión de una alternativa que no materializó el desconocido futuro del protagonista, la aumento de dimensión de la vigilancia del lector de un autor adulto, reticente cuyo acto de escribir crea un presente que no dice nada del futuro del muchacho ahora más ciertamente pasado, todo eliminar convencional temporalmente y contribuir en la misma medida a la inoportunidad de la novela.

Stendhal dijo de los españoles "ellos son ignorantes de una masa de pequeñas verdades (la pueril vanidad de sus vecinos); pero ~~ellos~~ ellos tienen un profundo conocimiento de grandes verdades y suficiente carácter y fantasía para seguir sus consecuencias hasta sus últimos efectos. Delibes en "El Camino" ofrece un ejemplo artístico y concreto.

J. Amor y Vázquez.

El crítico es miembro de la Facultad de Lenguas Romances de la Universidad de Brown.

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HIGHLY REGARDED in his native Spain, Miguel Delibes has had books translated into French, German, Portuguese and Italian. Now, appearing for the first time in English translation, his novel "THE PATH" (Day, \$3) introduces him to American readers as a writer of outstanding quality. "The Path," set in a remote Castilian village, centers on Daniel, 11-year-old son of the local cheesemaker, who must leave his friends and go away to school. The account is vivid, tender and hilarious.

Independent Press Telegram
Long Beach, Calif. 1/18/62

AMD, 32, 8,

FUNDACION

MIGUEL
DELIBES

Miguel Delibes

25

Independent Press. Telegram. Long Beach- California.

Altamente considerado en su España nativa. Miguel Delibes ha tenido libros traducidos al francés, alemán, portugués e italiano. Ahora aparece por primera vez en traducción inglesa, su novela "El Camino", le presenta a los lectores americanos como un escritor de eminente calidad. "El Camino", situado en un pueblo remoto de Castilla, centra en Daniel, muchacho de 11 años, hijo de un fabricante local de queso, que tiene que dejar a sus amigos y marchar a la escuela. La narración es animada, tierna y alegre.



Daniel's Humble Castle in Spain And the Parting



Mary
Democrat Herald,
Oregon

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In the process of getting to know our neighbors on a shrinking globe, we do not always read enough of their contemporary literary product. Of their history, yes; their science, yes. Fiction, which remains both a mirror and a prognosis, too often is skimmed, not by intention, but by the routine of publishing. It's easier to publish foreign works by names known here than to venture money on names little known.

These suggestions come with Miguel Delibes' **The Path**, published here Monday. And published here for the first time, although it was first published in Spain in 1950. And published here as the only one of his ten previous books, most of which have appeared in French, German, Portuguese and Italian translations.

It's pleasant, in spite of our tardiness, making the acquaintance of Miguel Delibes and the 11-year-old Daniel, son of the village cheesemaker, who with his true friends strong Roque and bald-polled German, figure as co-protagonists. They are genuine. We hear their hearts thudding. Our pulses race with theirs.

Their creator has used the device of the cutback to show his picture of the village; it is as Daniel is starting for the city to learn to be an important man that he becomes so keenly aware of all the delights he is leaving. He'd not have had it so; but his domineering father willed it, before Daniel's birth. He's not to grow up a poor village cheesemaker.

Thus he lives over his 11 years, that have seemed so long and now summarily seem so short compared to the unknown years ahead. His friends Roque, son of the blacksmith who is the strongest man in the world, and German of the bald spots in his black hair; he lives again the quirks and eccentricities of all who abide in the Spanish village: Lola, owner of the shop, who roams at night with a lantern, reprimanding the lovers she uncovers and is only saved from lynching by one-armed Quinto, the tavern-keeper; Sarah, the troublemaking sister of Roque, who in amorous dalliance with Don Moises, the schoolmaster, can only quote from the prayers for the dying.

The lives of others, in boy's-eye-view, are traced in these pages, gently, with understanding, with compassionate humor for whereas Delibes is only 41, he has lived long enough not to blame the hand of the potter. And he is proof that the line of Cervantes and other giants has not been stamped out in the welter of their country's travails.

THE PATH—By Miguel Delibes. 190 pp. New York: The John Day Co., Inc. \$3.

FUNDACION MIGUEL DELIBES
Miguel Delibes

EL MODESTO CASTILLO DE DANIEL EN ESPAÑA
Y LA DESPEDIDA



(1) ilusión y
realismo

En el proceso de conseguir conocer a nuestros prójimos en un mermado globo, no leemos nunca lo suficiente de su producto literario contemporáneo. De su historia, si; su ciencia, si. La novela, que retiene ambos (1) a ^{un espejo y un pronóstico} (2) a ^{un espejo y un pronóstico} (3) a ^{un espejo y un pronóstico} es muy a menudo escatimada, no se con intención, sino por la rutina de publicar. Es más fácil publicar aquí obras extranjeras de nombres conocidos que aventurar dinero en nombres poco conocidos.

Estas sugerencias vienen con Miguel Delibes "El Gemino" publicado aquí el lunes y publicado aquí por vez primera, aunque se publicó en España por primera vez en 1950. Y publicado aquí como único de sus 10 libros previos, la mayor parte de los cuales han aparecido traducidos al francés, alemán, portugués e italiano.

Es agradable a pesar de nuestra tardanza haber conocido a Miguel Delibes y al muchacho de 11 años Daniel, hijo del queso del pueblo, que con sus dos verdaderos amigos, el violento Roque y Germán de pelo rapado figuran como protagonistas. Son genuinos. Oímos colpear

FUNDACIÓN MIGUEL DELIBES
Miguel Delibes

sus corazones. Nuestros pulsos corren con los de ellos.

Su creador ha usado el artificio del cut-back para mostrar su descripción del pueblo. Como Daniel parte para la ciudad para aprender a ser un hombre importante, que llega a ser tan astutamente sabedor de todas las delicias que abandona. No hubiera sucedido así, pero su dominante padre lo deseaba así antes de que Daniel naciera. El no será un pobre queso de pueblo.

De este modo vive sus 11 años que han parecido tan largos y ahora resumidamente parecen tan cortos comparados con los desconocidos años venideros. Sus amigos, Roque, hijo del herrero, que es el hombre más fuerte del mundo, el de las manchas de calvas en su pelo negro; el vive de nuevo los subterfugios y excentricidades de todos que viven en el pueblo español. Lola, propietaria de la tienda, que vaga por la noche con una linterna, reprendiendo a los amantes que ella descubre y se salva de ser apedreada solamente por un recluso (quinto) el encargado de la taberna; Sara, la enredadora hermana de Roque, que en amorosa diversión con Don Moisés, el maestro, solamente puede citar en las oraciones, para desistir.

Las vidas de otros a vistas del muchacho, se trezan en esas páginas entilmente, con entendimiento, con humor compasivo, porque considerando que Delibes tiene solamente 41 años ha vivido



3)

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lo suficiente para (^{no culpar la mano del alfarero} not to blame the hand of the potter). Y él es
prueba que la línea de Cervantes y otros gigantes se ha mantenido en
el oleaje de los trabajos de su país.



bility." Thus, to one who has read these chapters, it comes as no surprise that *Mater et Magistra*, unlike *Quadragesimo Anno*, referred only in passing to that specific mode of socio-economic co-operation popularly known as the vocational or industry council plan.

For the individual Catholic, Pope John's recent challenge is clear. It is to join in "the immense task of giving a human and Christian tone to modern civilization." In this undertaking, our surest guide will be *Mater et Magistra*. And it is difficult to think of a more useful aid to understanding this document than *The Church and Social Justice*.

DONALD B. CAMPION

Mad Against Whom?

AFRICA—ANGRY YOUNG GIANT

By Smith Hempstone. Praeger, 645p. \$7.95

An entangled welter of impressions—ranging from vivid identification with the steaming environment of cheerful tropical paupers to the high economic and political destinies of 26 new nations—is the principal reward to be won from delving into Mr. Hempstone's odyssey of a working journalist in tropical Africa. A quite unfair comparison between this book and the mannered prose of Charles M. Doughty's *Travels in Arabia Deserta* would illustrate the gulf that now extends between the 19th- and 20th-century outlooks of educated Westerners toward alien cultures. Doughty, intensely sympathetic to his fellow men, immersed himself with reckless abandon in the Arabic culture without foregoing any of his native certainties. The resulting clash of values was exquisitely painful as revealed in his tortuous Elizabethan prose, but it did result in the conception of a true relationship between two valid ways of life.

Our modern correspondent describes, depicts and opines without establishing any meaningful relationship between cultures. Perhaps this is because such Western values as he recognizes resolve themselves into production figures and the prospects of military and diplomatic alliances. Otherwise he appears to consider that only the technological culture of the West has validity to the Africa of the future; this neo-Western culture is divested of such trappings as Christianity or moral prejudices against murder, mutilation, cannibalism and tyranny. The trouble with this assumption, even on the most pragmatic level, is that it concedes the field to the Soviets, who boast a technological culture far more efficiently trimmed of nonmaterialistic excrescences and ac-

cordingly better suited to the Africa of the author's conception.

It might be unjust to label the viewpoint of this book as naive, because in many ways it reflects faithfully the outlook of perhaps a majority of educated Americans in Africa and the Africans. Innocent curiosity may be the more accurate description of curiosity untrammelled by any realization that modern Africa presents a problem in relationship—a problem affecting our practical lives and destinies that is being formulated under barely understood pressures in circumstances of real danger. The effort needed to relate Africa to the facts of our economic and cultural survival requires ruthless analysis of the nature of our true interests and capacities.

Mr. Hempstone contributes little to this task. His Africa remains the playground of the curious visitor and busy entrepreneur, a continent to which America may condescend in kindly fashion, without entangling her destiny in so remote a region. Reaction from colonialism in all its forms appears to have given rise to a positive euphoria of irresponsibility. Mr. Hempstone titles his book *Africa—Angry Young Giant* without indicating in the contents against whom the anger may be directed. This is a point that may concern all of us in the immediate future, and it would seem reasonable to expect our cheerful emissaries on the scene of action to view their surroundings in a more humble and thoughtful spirit.

Despite lack of organization and purpose, Mr. Hempstone's account of his adventures has an ebullient charm that leads the reader pleasantly through a tangle of impressions, statistics and thumbnail sketches of ephemeral politicians and tiding political situations. A sample of the author's genius for irrelevant juxtaposition may be quoted from his analysis of the Ethiopian situation: "More East-West sparring can be expected when the Emperor, who has the smallest hands and feet I have ever seen, starts his pet project, a Blue Nile hydroelectric scheme."

THOMAS R. ADAM

Grass-Roots Spain

THE PATH

By Miguel Delibes. Trans. by John and Brita Haycraft. Day, 190p. \$3

Miguel Delibes has won several literary prizes with his novels. This is the first of his works to be translated into English, and it is a happy choice.

Centering about Daniel, an eleven-

year-old who is about to be sent to the city for further education, the book is primarily an account of life in a typical Spanish village of today, where few modern customs have crept in. On the eve of his departure, Daniel reviews most of his short existence, his friendships, difficulties, embarrassments and, in short, the many painful aspects connected with a child's growing awareness of the imperfections and inconsistencies of the adult world.

The author's ability to see inside the mind of a young boy is perhaps the most unusual aspect of this book. But he shows skill in bringing to life the villagers with their physical characteristics, superstitions, frugality, poverty and a narrowness which does not preclude occasional flashes of generosity and nobility.

Though hardly a masterpiece, *The Path* presents a true and, on the whole, likable picture of life in rural Spain, and somehow gives evidence of the villager's desire for a better life in keeping with the world's material progress. Spain, which remains one of the least-known European countries, has much to offer thoughtful Americans. A translation such as this helps to reveal some of the unknown aspects of its strongly individualistic population.

PIERRE COURTINE

FATHER FABER

By Ronald Chapman. Newman, 374p. \$5.95

This book is advertised as "a new landmark in Catholic biography." Since that statement is subject to a variety of interpretations, it seems simpler to affirm, without hesitation, that this splendid work is in the best tradition of biographical writing.

Fr. Faber's name means nothing to the younger generation of Catholics and this life will serve to rescue him from oblivion. Of course, as the author points out, Faber's monument is the Oratory at Brompton in England. Nothing projects a man like his correspondence, however, and its publication here immortalizes him in a truly personal way. The letters are unquestionably more entertaining and more absorbing than the many books for which Faber was famous during his life.

The publication of this biography may encourage someone to collect in one volume "the best of Faber." It would be extremely worth-while, but it would entail plowing through a proliferation of overstuffed Victorian prose. From the correspondence, however, there emerges a tremendously real man of flesh and blood, a type not uncom-

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L I B R O S

Idiosincrasia española

EL CAMINO

Por Miguel Delibes. Traducción por John y Brita Haycraft.

Edición de 190 páginas, 3 dólares

Miguel Delibes ha ganado varios premios literarios con sus novelas. Esta es la primera de sus obras que se traduce al inglés y esto ha sido una elección acertada.

El personaje central, Daniel, un muchacho de once años de edad que va a ser enviado a la ciudad para continuar su educación, da lugar a que el libro primordialmente relate la vida de una aldea típica española de hoy día, en la que no han penetrado sino pocas costumbres modernas. La víspera de su partida, Daniel recuerda la mayor parte de su breve existencia, sus amistades, dificultades y contratiempos, y en resumen, los más penosos aspectos relacionados con la formación de un muchacho que se da cuenta de las imperfecciones e inconsistencias del mundo adulto que le rodea.

La habilidad del autor para penetrar en el pensamiento de un niño es tal vez el aspecto más original de este libro. Pero él muestra habilidad para dar vida a los campesinos con sus características físicas, supersticiones, frugalidad, pobreza y estrecheces, lo que no impide en ocasiones destellos de generosidad y nobleza.

Aunque no llegue a ser una obra maestra, EL CAMINO presenta una cierta y en conjunto una agradable pintura de la vida rural en España y en muchos aspectos da evidencia del deseo de los campesinos por una vida mejor en relación con el pro-



greso material del mundo. España que permanece como una de los países europeos menos conocidos tiene mucho que ofrecer al pensamiento de los americanos. Una traducción como ésta ayuda a revelar algunos de los aspectos desconocidos de su población fuertemente individualista.