SOME PEOPLE say the world is growing smaller. In a sense it is. But in another sense it is constantly growing larger, since informed citizens must now know about every part of the globe instead of merely being acquainted with western Europe and a few other spots—which is all that used to be required.

The best way to become acquainted with this expanding world is by travel. But since that is impossible for most of us, the next best ways are through films and through books and pamphlets.

A year and a half ago the writer suggested a short list of books for "Reading Ourselves Around the World" (Clearing House, Vol. 26, No. 9. May 1952). The response to that article has prompted him to propose another global journey, this time via pamphlets. For some this will be a second journey, revisiting places and meeting people accosted on last year's trip. For some it will be their first global flight. For all it can be an exciting, educational tour.

Orientation to the World

As preparation for this tour the writer suggests four possible "Baedekers" or travel guides:


A classic in this field. Especially good on who the people of the world are, the importance of TVA projects, and the need for world government.


Emphasizes the need for aid to the two-thirds of the world in Asia, Africa, and Latin-American which are underdeveloped.


A readable high-school textbook in pamphlet form stressing globes and maps, the distribution of the human race, topography and human affairs, and climate.


Simplified story of the world today in figures on population, longevity, food, health, and resources.

Glimpse into Contemporary Europe

Most of us know something about Europe. But our information is very likely to be out of date. To bring us abreast of developments in that important sector of the world the following booklets are recommended:


Deals with political institutions and parties, the social scene and economy, and France's role in the world.


The causes, basic tenets, extent, and chief leaders of neutralism in France and Germany, treated separately.


The four chapters deal with the basic law of 1949, German society and politics, political parties, and rearmament and democracy.


A Headline Book on the Italians, their mind and
spirit, their economic activities, their politics, and their foreign policies.

Separate chapters on Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Iceland, and Finland, with a section on U.S. policy in Northern Europe. Another Headline Book.

Chapters on Great Britain, France, Scandinavia, the small western European democracies, Germany and Italy, and Spain and Portugal. Intended for high-school students but good for teachers, too.

An interesting treatment of Europe's efforts to unite, with a section on the U.S. and western Europe.

Introduction to Africa

For most of us Africa is still the unknown continent. But revolutionary forces are at work there as they have been in Asia and the Middle East, and Africa is crying out for political independence and economic betterment. Its importance in the modern world and its struggles to adjust to a world society make it of the utmost importance to teachers. To understand this continent better the following readings are recommended:

An excellent brief account of contemporary Africa, with some charts and graphs to help the reader.

A Penguin Special, written for the British public, but of interest to Americans, too.

A vivid account of South Africa by the author of Cry the Beloved Country, himself a South African.

Probing the Middle East

The Middle East is also in ferment, as anyone knows who reads the newspapers, listens to the radio, or watches television. The Arab-Jewish conflict in Israel still remains unsolved, Iran and Great Britain continue their dispute over oil and other issues, Egypt has undergone a revolution, and the complicated questions of United States policy in that historic area of the world remain unresolved. To acquaint ourselves better with some of these questions and the background out of which they arise, the following pamphlets are suggested:

The first section deals with Israel as a new nation, and the second with Israel as a laboratory of human relations.

A lucid description of the entire area by a well-known writer. Intended for high-school students but excellent for teachers as well.

A brief account of U.S. relations in the Near East.

The chief of the economic mission to the Middle East writes of ways of helping the Middle East to develop its economic resources.

A Brief Visit to the U.S.S.R.

The U.S.S.R. remains an enigma to all of us. Facts are hard to find. Rumors are easily believed. So far as one can ascertain the truth, these booklets may be helpful:

A highly readable account by an authority on the U.S.S.R., with materials on the people, their history, their ways and attitudes, how they earn a living, and their political system.

Fifteen pages of discussion of aims and methods, followed by bibliographies for elementary, secondary, and college people on the U.S.S.R., as well as films and filmstrips.


A simple and sane account of communism around the world, with special reference to the United States, by a well-known historian teaching at Harvard University.

A Look at Asia and Southeast Asia

Most of the world lives in that vast area which we used to call the Orient and which we are trying now to designate as Asia. Call the roll of the largest nations by population and the following will respond—China, India, the U.S.S.R., the U.S.A., Japan, Indonesia, and Pakistan. With conflict in Korea, trouble in Indo-China, adjustments to be made in our relations in Japan, and a host of other problems, this is another area to bear in mind for those who would be world-minded. As a help to the traveller via pamphlets we suggest the following:


Chapters on Indonesia, Thailand, Indochina, Malaya, Burma, and Southeast Asia’s future, illustrated by maps and charts.


A general account intended primarily for high-school students of the social studies, but good background for teachers.


A fifteen-page discussion of aims and methods, followed by bibliographies of books, films, and filmstrips for all grade levels and adult groups.

A Quick Survey of Latin America

Latin America has almost been forgotten in recent years. But these countries are still our next-door neighbors and of vital importance to us in many ways. The Pan-American Union in Washington is a rich resource for many pamphlets on the cities, countries, and products of Latin America, but here are a few selected items from them and from other sources:


A general account of Mexico and its numerous revolutions, plus a section on fundamental education in that country.


Written for junior-high-school students, but a beautifully illustrated and interesting account for adults as well as children.


A fascinating account of a nation larger than the United States and destined to a great future. One of the American Capital Series.

The British Empire in Transition

The British Empire may be crumbling, but the British Commonwealth is a mighty powerful force in this chaotic, changing world. It behooves us to know how this extensive accumulation of countries is adapting itself to life in this second half of the twentieth century.
So, as the last lap of our global journey, we propose to stop at the various points in the British Commonwealth of Nations. Here are two pamphlets for this stage of our world-wide wanderings:


This concise account is divided into three parts—The Continuing Threads, Commonwealth Cooperation in Practice, and Some Personal Reflections.


The story of the 1949 conference on Commonwealth problems, showing some of the trends in that far-flung system of nations.

To all who have set out on this global journey via pamphlets we say, Bon Voyage. A fascinating adventure lies before you.

The School Is My Stage (Calypso Style)

*By Norman Greenberg*

The roles are many which I play—day unto day.  
For you are our representative, says société.  
With report cards, grades, and promotions galore  
I become judge and screener too, hallelujah.  
A fund of knowledge I must possess  
So that as helper I may serve in the learning process.

Refereeing requires a wise choice of temperament  
As I attempt to settle a pupil's argument.  
Stealing and cheating I try to prevent,  
Blessed must one be with a detective's nasal scent.  
On certain days a target I become for hostility,  
And then I attempt to delimit anxiety.

This may entail becoming a parent surrogate,  
Since love does serve as a reducer of hate.  
On other days I may support a wavering ego  
When it may fluctuate from the high to the low.  
And as group leader I then start out  
To create a tone where depression takes a route.  
However, I also serve as an object of identification  
For those who dream of some day serving education.

And I exist also for others who dream of me  
As a moonlit lover who treats them tenderly.  
Not infrequently I appear on the scene  
As friend, adviser, or authority supreme.  
The school is my stage—my road to fame,  
Roles I play—teacher is my name.