

adding only what can prudently be deduced about Botticelli, the man Leonardo called "vain" because he did not study the painting of landscape for landscape's sake. He emerges from the Ettlengers' sympathetic clarifications more alive than before. The two art historians treat the religious paintings, allegories, portraits, and drawings according to the genre to which each belongs. Illustrated with 138 good reproductions, 18 in color (including the *Augustine*).

THE FAIR

by Juan José Arreola
Univ. of Texas, 1977
154 pp. \$10
L of C 76-48981
ISBN 0-292-72417-9

The town of Zapotlán El Grande sleeps "at the edge of its rounded valley like a fairy tale village of adobes, bricks and roof tiles." Beneath it lies a "colossal geological fault . . . an eggshell." In his first novel, Mexican satirist Arreola bares the controversies, history, and daily hubbub of Zapotlán as the town prepares for its profitable annual fair in honor of St. Joseph. A timeless feud festers between landowners and aggrieved Indians. Characters emerge and gradually become distinct through their own voices: the musings of a weary priest; the daily log of a cobbler turned farmer (the farm fails, but he invents a new shoe for field hands); the confessions of an inquisitive boy; the scoldings of housewives. An old Indian foreman's gentle admonition echoes like a refrain: "Don't shoot the crows, Layo. They are human beings like us, and they don't do the corn any harm. . . . Poor creatures, they can't be blamed for giving in to temptation." This notable short work is illustrated with woodcuts and accompanied by the translator's lively notes.

HIMALAYAS

by Yoshikazu Shirakawa
Abrams, 1977, 128 pp. \$18.50
L of C 76-47575
ISBN 0-8109-1051-9

The Himalayas (literally "abode of snows") reach into parts of eight countries. This book's geographical coverage is limited to the Nepal, Punjab, and Sikkim ranges, and the Hindu Kush (Afghanistan). But awesome and austere shots of Everest, Annapurna, and lesser-known peaks make Yoshikazu Shirakawa's book of photographs a great visual prize. And, with 71 full-page color plates, at one-fifth the

price of the original 1971 folio edition, quite a bargain. The quality of reproduction complements Shirakawa's technical virtuosity (though f-stop minded readers may be disappointed by the scanty technical information). His colors lend the entire volume a special sort of otherworldliness, abetted by the immensity of the mountains themselves. A few paragraphs each by Arnold Toynbee and Edmund Hillary and a short essay on the geology of "the roof of the world" by Kyuya Fukada supplement the photographer's brief personal narrative. Shirakawa experienced severe trans-Asian cultural shock. His travail was political (four years of seeking permission in India and Pakistan to enter or even approach certain areas bordering Tibet and China) and culinary ("In time I became used to mountain goat meat, at first unbearably pungent").

**THE WORD AND
VERBAL ART:
Selected Essays**

by Jan Mukarovsky
edited by John Burbank and
Peter Steiner
Yale, 1977, 238 pp. \$15
L of C 76-49733
ISBN 0-300-01573-9

Highly bellicose, the "Formalist" movement in literary criticism exploded in early 20th-century Russia. Stressing the urgency of separating the artistic from the simply "communicative" in analyzing literature, the Formalists soon generated new, first-class scholarship that led to modern linguistic "structuralism" (the analysis of language and literary phenomena in their dynamic parts and as a whole). Unlike some of their more modern descendants, the founding theoreticians of structuralism wrote in plain words for all readers. One of them, the Russian Roman Jakobson, in 1920 founded the Prague Linguistic Circle. Its foremost member, Czech Jan Mukarovsky (1892-1975), made precise, imaginative contributions to the new scholarship. Perhaps only Jakobson himself went further. This timely translation of Mukarovsky's main articles (on poetic language, on dialogue, on the influence that a poet's life and work have on one another) makes a readable companion to last year's comprehensive (but difficult) study, *Roman Jakobson's Approach to Language: Phenomenological Structuralism*, by Elmar Holenstein.