Autobiography of the Years 1893-1920 by Andrés Segovia Macmillan, 1976, 207 pp.

SEGOVIA: An

of C 76-42291 ISBN 0-02-609080-5

\$10.95

portrait. We see some of Jacqueline's own collection of vigorous Picassos, largely of herself, not to be viewed elsewhere, and, near the end, a striking shot of an oversize photograph of the artist looking intensely alive, with two tulips stuck in a glass on the floor in front of him.

The great guitarist's witty, well-turned memoir of his early years, translated by W. F. O'Brien, is not simply a variant of the ofttold gifted young man's struggle. It is also the story of a knight errant's private crusade to raise the status of an instrument that was long considered beneath notice by serious music lovers. Segovia told a well-wisher who tried, for the sake of his career, to woo him away from his guitar: "I would never turn my back on the guitar. It needs me; the violin doesn't." Among the difficulties he faced was a lack of music written for the guitar. When he landed his first contract for a series of concert hall appearances, he exclaimed, "My kingdom for a répertoire!" Segovia's genius prevailed. Soon many composers were adapting old favorites or writing original music for his "Cinderella among all concert instruments." Insouciant drawings by Vladimir Bobri illustrate an appealing story.

THE TALE OF GENJI by Murasaki Shikibu Knopf, 1976, 1,090 pp. 2 vol. L of C 76-13680 ISBN 0-394-48328-6

The "shining Genji," hero of the most famous story in Japanese literature-and of the world's first historical novel-comes to us in new dress, courtesy of translator Edward G. Seidensticker, who introduced 1968 Nobel prizewinner Kawabata Yasunari to the West. Seidensticker provides a version of Genji's 10th-century adventures and affairs of the heart that is shorter and pithier than the beautiful but embroidered translation by Arthur Waley of a half century ago. The Tale as Waley shaped it, has been read and reread both by Orientalists and by countless lovers of romantic novels. It was written by Lady Murasaki, a sharp-eyed baroness of 11th-century Japan. In both translations, Genji's story begins with his birth as a son of the Emperor and a lady of the court. But it does not end