

PAPERBOUNDS

VIRGINIA WOOLF: The Inward Voyage. By Harvena Richter. Princeton reprint, 1978. 290 pp. \$4.95

In a year that has seen an unprecedented outpouring of books about Virginia Woolf (1882–1941) and her circle, is this paperback edition of a 1970 study superfluous? No. The flourishing new Bloomsbury industry is based largely on collections of letters, diaries, and the fugitive journalism of Mrs. Woolf, her husband Leonard, and their literary group. Much of it deals in gossip. Richter, an English professor at the University of New Mexico, provides something else. Her systematic analysis of character portrayal in the Woolf novels is persuasive even when applied—no easy task—to the levels of fantasy represented by the hallucinations of Rachel ill with typhoid in *The Voyage Out* (1915) and the disturbed minds of Septimus Smith in *Mrs. Dalloway* (1925) and Rhoda in *The Waves* (1931). Richter is always on the lookout for the novelist's "intensity of identification" with her characters, which she described as an irresistible urge "to lodge myself somewhere on the firm flesh, in the robust spine, wherever I can penetrate or find foothold," until, finally inside, "we reach the eyes." Mrs. Woolf's achievement was that she took the reader inside with her so often.

ISRAEL AND THE DEAD SEA SCROLLS. By Edmund Wilson. Farrar, 1978. 432 pp. \$5.95

In 1947 a Bedouin boy known as Muhammed the Wolf was tending goats on the western shore of the Dead Sea. He tossed a stone into a cave, heard something break, and ran away in fright. Later he returned to find several tall clay jars containing those now-famous leather Hebrew scrolls that Edmund Wilson described for the *New Yorker* in 1955. Fol-

lowing a second visit to Jerusalem in 1967, Wilson updated his scholarly detective story in *The Dead Sea Scrolls, 1947–69*. This book encompasses discoveries of other scrolls, the disputes over the dating of the scrolls (100 B.C., 200 B.C., earlier?), and the continuing debate over the significance of the texts. Incontestably pre-Christian, the scrolls anticipate much of the New Testament. Now, in this paperback edition, enriched by the addition of 100 pages on Israel from *Red, Blond, Black, and Olive* (1956), we learn how Wilson, while giving a seminar in criticism at Princeton in 1952, began to study Hebrew at the university's Theological Seminary. Why? Because he had found a Hebrew Bible belonging to his grandfather, a Presbyterian minister. It piqued his pride and curiosity. A noted intellectual in his late fifties who had mastered Latin and Greek (as well as French and Russian), Wilson had never seriously read the Old Testament. Soon finding himself "heavily enmeshed in 3,000 years of Jewish literature and history," he was the right man for the *New Yorker* to send as its investigator to the shores of the Dead Sea.

GUTS & GLORY: Great American War Movies. By Lawrence H. Suid. Addison-Wesley, 1978. 379 pp. \$6.95 (cloth, \$12.95)

At least two authors of recent books about Vietnam—Philip Caputo in *A Rumor of War* and Ron Kovic in *Born on the Fourth of July*—have made much of growing up with Hollywood pictures of war in their heads. This book brings those pictures into focus. Don't be put off by the title. Suid has given us not another edited coffee-table picture book but a serious, important study. He examines more than 70 war films from World War I (*The Big Parade, What Price Glory?*) to Vietnam (*The Green Berets, Apocalypse Now*). In