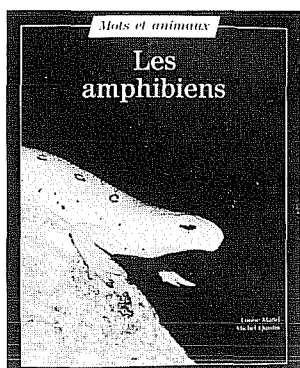


aux avances des tout-petits.

Car c'est aux tout-petits que s'adresse d'abord le livre. Le texte qui les concerne (il y en a un autre) tient à la fois de la comptine et de la fable. Il revêt la forme de dialogues entre des animaux malicieux qui usent à l'envie de la rime et de l'assonance. Mais chacun de ces textes rimés a sa contrepartie sérieuse: un autre texte, plus bref, plus concis, très lisible cependant et qui s'adresse au grand frère ou soeur, ou à l'adulte qui fait la lecture rimée pour l'enfant.

On peut se demander si la formule est heureuse. À qui s'adresse le livre? Le même enfant ne lira pas les deux textes. S'il ne sait pas lire, il entendra les rimes du premier texte. S'il commence à lire, il ne s'attaquera pas facilement au documentaire d'accompagnement. Plus tard, il sera capable de lire le texte difficile, mais songera-t-il à revenir à ce vieux livre déjà parcouru? . . . La formule valait peut-être d'être essayée, mais je doute qu'elle contribue pour beaucoup à favoriser l'accès du jeune lecteur aux échelons supérieurs du texte documentaire.



L'écart est trop grand entre l'historiette et le texte "sérieux". En fait, pour rester dans le domaine de la faune, il semble qu'on ait voulu courir deux lièvres à la fois: amuser et instruire. Voilà bien deux gibiers que les pédagogues s'essayaient depuis toujours à capturer ensemble et on ne saurait les en blâmer. Toutefois, on prend peut-être trop pour acquis qu'un texte intéressant doit être amusant et, de ce fait, appartenir à la famille des textes narratifs ou ludiques. Pourquoi ces albums dont la présentation devraient au départ capter l'attention et l'intérêt des tout-petits (notamment par ses

illustrations), ne mettraient-ils pas sur la curiosité et l'émerveillement pour informer en termes simples et dans une forme qui favorise l'apprentissage du texte documentaire? Pourquoi les mêmes mots dont on fait les historiettes rimées ne serviraient-ils pas à décrire et à expliquer? Qui a démontré que les enfants ne savaient pas lire autre chose que des fables?

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## HELP FOR HORSE-LOVERS

**The natural aid: for horse-related problems.** David Godson. Illus. Tisha Pratt. Godson Publishing, 1984. 236 pp. \$14.95 paper. ISBN 0-9691435-1-6;

**The equine questionnaire**, David Godson. Illus. Tisha Pratt. Godson Publishing, 1984. 255 pp. \$14.95 paper. ISBN 0-9691435-0-8.

Any book aimed at an all-age audience that promises to explain more than three hundred and fifty horse-related problems would raise a dubious eyebrow among experienced horsepersons. Can one book appeal to horse people with much or little experience; to those involved with different breeds of horses; to those in grade 4 or university? In other words, does it live up to its claim of indispensability to *all* horse-lovers?

The author is an experienced equestrian competitor, instructor and judge. However, non-equestrian horsepersons can still glean a plethora of information from the book and adapt for their own applications. For instance, the Standardbred trainer may not be interested in how to sit in the saddle while jumping, but may find useful the chapters on Feeding, Care and Training, and the 35 pages of "Helpful Hints"— which alone are worth the price of the book.

For the true equestrian — the person interested in riding as well as the complete care of the horse — this book is a direct hit. Riders can readily identify with the problems raised and the suggestions for correcting them. Also explained are training techniques, common errors, and a schedule from the start for breaking in a new horse.

This is not a book for pleasure reading. It is comprehensive and succinct, and hence dry. The information is useful, and to my mind correct, but it seemed to me that readability was sacrificed to brevity. The prose is impersonal and the illustrations uninterestingly simple (although they usually convey the idea). But if one were to read it thoroughly and high-light the areas of interest, it would certainly serve as a useful manual.

Much to his credit, the author approaches behavioural problems in horses from an empathetic "teacher-student" point of view — not the "master-subordinate" relationship so common in old traditional training methods. He repeatedly encourages a trust building relationship between horse and handler. And, if a horse is behaving in an unusual way, it is important to understand *why*. Furthermore, Godson's perspective is, for the most part, both objective and positive. He implies: "I am an expert and this is the way that works for me, and why. But don't think it's the only way."

A glossary and an index, though brief and somewhat limited, are suitable for a handbook. With its durable cover and binding, it would appear able to withstand the insults of life in a tack box or barn shelf, within reach for quick reference.

*The equine questionnaire*, also by David Godson, is designed as a companion volume. It is a book of questions and answers aimed like a shotgun at the world of horse people. Here is how it works. You want to test your knowledge of a subject area, say, Anatomy. The Table of Contents tells you the Question are on page 99 and their corresponding Answers, page 153.

So, you turn to page 99 to find 16 questions on Anatomy which you will try to answer. Then, you will want to check them so you turn to page 153 to find three and a half pages of answers with explanations and diagrams.

For what it was designed to be — a study guide — I believe it is a good and useful book. But I imagine it would only be included in the libraries of serious Pony Club students and instructors.

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## TWO SETS TO PLEASE THE YOUNGEST

**The sea**, Philippe Béha. Illus. Author. James Lorimer, 1985, unpag. \$3.95 cloth. ISBN 0-88862-817-X; **The garden**, Philippe Béha. Illus. Author. James Lorimer, 1985, \$3.95 cloth. ISBN 0-88862-819-6; **The farmyard**, Philippe Béha. Illus. Author. James Lorimer, 1985, \$3.95 cloth. ISBN 0-88862-820-X; **The fridge**, Philippe Béha. Illus. Author. James Lorimer, 1985, \$3.95 cloth. ISBN 0-88862-818-8; **Where is my dummy?** Sylvie Assathiany and Louise Pelletier. Illus. Philippe Béha. James Lorimer, 1985. 16 pp. \$3.95 cloth. ISBN 0-88862-777-7; **The bad day**, Sylvie Assathiany and Louise Pelletier. Illus. Philippe Béha. James Lorimer, 1985. 16 pp. \$3.95 cloth. ISBN 0-88862-778-5; **Grandma's visit**, Sylvie Assathiany and Louise Pelletier. Illus. Philippe Béha. James Lorimer, 1985. 16 pp. \$3.95 cloth. ISBN 0-88862-775-0; **My baby sister**, Sylvie Assathiany and Louise Pelletier. Illus. Philippe Béha. James Lorimer, 1985. 16 pp. \$3.95 cloth. ISBN 0-88862-776-9.

Bright, imaginative books for the youngest consumers are produced in abundance in Québec; James Lorimer is offering two of these attractive series in translation.

The format for the "Little big books" series is intriguing. Each sturdy boardbook rips open (Velcro-type fastening) to reveal a single brightly coloured scene. On the back are twelve pictures extracted from the main picture, together with the appropriate names. Unfortunately illustrations on the back do not always match those on the front and are in some cases misleading — e.g., an octopus with five legs!

*The sea* is pleasantly coloured with fun cartoon-like characters. The scene is quite fanciful with drum playing crabs and skipping lobsters. Chubby fish, complete with spurs, gallop across on frolicking seahorses. A diver dances with a top-hatted octopus. The picture is full of fantastic and, at