BOOK BEAT Mackinac Island inspires memorable reads

Visits to Mackinae Island always bring out the story-teller in me. There's the natural beauty, local color, and rich historical back ground that make this former center of the fur trade and in dern resort are a perfect setting for a novel.

The Mackinae Island atture have already discovered Mackinae's potential. Gloria the Allendar's One on This Island's (Harper Collins, 1996, \$14.96) in the threes of the War of a family caught up in the threes of the War of Island and conquers Fort Michilimackiner, 12-year-old Michilimackiner, 12-year-old words of the Pritish army invades their remote Michigan and her sister and brother face some new challenges.

Within days, Mary's widowed father must leave the island

because he refuses to compromise his patriolism by swearing
allegiance to the British crown.
His plan is to join General Hull's
American Forces at Fort Wayne
in Detroit.

That means Mary and the
older Angelique and Jacques will
be loft alone to work the farm
and look out for one another.
They're up to the challenge, their
father insists, since he'll only be
gone for six months.

Though suddened by his
impending departure, Mary is
proud when her father expresses
faith in her courage and fortitude and places a gold coin in
her hand, saying, "Spend it only
when there is great need."
But months stretch into years.
The Americans are not prepared
to fight the well equipped British
and their Indian allies. Winters
on the island present numerous
hardships. Food is scarce, and
Angelique and Jacques become
restless. At the brink of adulthood, they want more out of life
than the deliy drudgery of farm
labor and household chores. A
handsome British soldler at the
fort and the lure of adventure

among fur traders direct their attention elsewhere. Yot Mary's spunk and fierce loyally to her father and country are unswerving. Even the loss for her best friend Gavin, an Indian orphan raised by white settlers, fails to dampen her spirits or dim her vision for a brighter future.

An award-winning writer, Gloria Whelan brings to life the customs and concerns of Michigan residents living in the early 19th century. Her book is sure to fascinate and inspire middle-school readers and beyond.

Rochester pharmacist Robert
A. Lytle spent his boyhood summers in the Les Choneaux
Islands of eastern upper
Michigan. His fond momories of
swimming, sailing, and fishing
are recorded in two fictional
works ontitled "Mackinac
Passage: A Summer Adventure"
(1955) and its sequel "Mackinac
Passage: The Boathouse
Mystery" (1996, \$11.95), both
published by Thunder Bay Press.

When "Boathouse Mystery" begins, 15-year-old Pete Jenkins and his friends are pleased that their efforts have culminated in the arrest of local counterfeiters. But a close call with disaster has made Pete a bit more cautious. Now it's time to enjoy what sumers at Les Cheneaux have to offer: boating, water-skiing, and parties with the privileged but "neat" kids from Cincinnati.

No one seems too concerned about a rash of petty thefla from luxurious boathouses anchored along the channels and bays of Lake Huron. Or that the body of Fats FitzRoberts — one of the counterfeiters and a morelleas killer — has never been found. With few clues, even the police are inclined to disregard the pilfering of minor items such as food and blankets. But when Dr. Scruton, polio specialist at Sault Sainte Marie Hoapstral, is mugged while carrying the substantial proceeds of a charity basketball game, the teens spring into action once again.

Little do Poto and his friënds know that more than robbery is at stake. They soon find them-selves in a predicament that requires quick thinking, team work, and conquering their fear of the frigid waters of Muscallonge Bay.

Young readers (10-14) will enjoy this book of friendship and adventure.

Action, humor, and suspense

— plus some Michigan geography — make "Mackinac Passage:
A Boathouse Mystery" as well as
its predecessor a good choice for
summer reading.

Both books can be purchased at Halfway Down the Stoirs Children's Book Shop on 114 E. Fourth St. in Rochester.

Esther Littmann, a resident of Bloomfield Township, is a private tutor with Una Dworkin and Associates. You can leave her a message from a touch-lone phone at (313) 953-2047, mailbox 1893. Her fax number is (810) 644-1314.

Book captures Holyland beauty

STATE WRITER

David Roberts was a distinguished 19th century British landscape artist who rose from poverty to a place of prominence in English art circles.

His reputation was solidified by a book of lithographs based on his drawings of scenes from the Holy Lands done during a trip in 1838-39.

Now, Stewart, Tabori & Chang, a New, York publisher that specializes in large format art books, has released an eye-popping recreation of the original color plates with historical and criticis companions. color plates with historical and artistic commentary, selections from Roberto journals and pre-sent, day photographs of the scenes, captured by Roberts. The book, "Yesterday and Today, The Holy Land," has a suggested retail price of \$60.

and a cover from the court in a cover from the Bible will find this book stunning. Roberts attention to the most minute details of architecture, landscape, costume and haman form make these pictures especially vivid. They arrightly regarded as among the best documentary recreations of the Holy Lands during that period. The large 10 1/4" by 14" format and the beautiful coloration make the book a treasure. In addition to the Roberts' drawings, the book also contains maps and covers from the original edition.

In addition to being a chronicle of Roberts' work, here arranged following the order of creation for the first time, the book is also a celebration of the lithographic art. Belgian lithographe Louis Haghe created the plates from Roberts' drawings.

Roberts' drawings.

The commentary by Fabio Bourbon is informative and the book's design by Patrizia Balocco Lovisatti is outstanding. The only flaw in this presentation is careless editing in this English language version, translated by Antony Shugaar As a newspaper reporter I am tolerant of occasional typos, a bane of newspapers usually caused by impending deadlines. But an art book of this quality and prepared with this attention to detail in its art reproduction should also be reproduction should also be impeccably edited.

That's a small quibble, because the book's value is in Roberts' art precise, alive to local culture, informed by a love for the play of light and dark and reverent about the Biblical sites but never maudiin or sentimental, and equally respectful toward Islamic holy places. Though it is Roberts' landscapes that are most famous, his interior architectural renderings and his portraiture are also impressive.

The publishers are promoting the book as a form of time travel and the contrasts and comparisons with the photos (most excellently done by Antonio Attini) do create a fascinating trip to the Holy Lands then and









