

GROTH John, graphic  
artist  
illustrator

illustrated: Hemingway's: Men  
without women

### Artist Who Writes

**STUDIO: ASIA.** By John Groth. World. 207 pp. \$4.95.

MR. GROTH is that rare bird, an artist who can also write. Not, mark you, a writer who can draw, but an artist who can write. There aren't too many of this kind around, which is one reason why this book of his deserves to do well. If you are at all interested in the angry ferment which Asia has now become, you should not miss the double punch of this first-hand report by a

man with an observant eye and an understanding mind.

Mr. Groth calls himself a "genre painter." He likes to draw and paint people in action. You will find them all over his book—GIs, geisha, dock workers, gun crews, streetwalkers, troops plunging through paddy fields, patients in hospital beds—all done with that delicacy of line and sharpness of impact for which John Groth is noted. There was action in Asia, all right: it pursued him everywhere.

He started out in Japan and Korea, and spent time not only with our own GIs but also with the other U. N. detachments which had come hither from far places—like the Ethiopians, who like to think they have the blood of Sheba and Solomon in their veins, or the "terrible Turks" who go into battle screaming "Allah, Allah, Allah."

Steinbeck's: Grapes of  
Wrath  
(Marbony books)

He spent a frustrating time on Formosa trying to get an interview with Madame Chiang. (He needn't have bothered.) He met some strange women in Hongkong and Macao. He went into action with French troops in Indo-China, which he sees as the Achilles heel of Southeast Asia. Mr. Groth's pessimism about this area seems to be fully justified, judging by current events.

The last part of the trip, through Thailand, India, Pakistan, Afghanistan and Turkey, was too hurried, and the book would have benefited from longer reports out of those countries.

Like the good reporter he is, Mr. Groth wrote down all the significant, the strange, the bizarre things he saw and did. From it all emerges a vivid portrait of an ancient continent fully aroused after a long sleep. "Studio: Asia" is an uneasy book, but a genuinely impressive one.

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