

THE JDM BIBLIOPHILE No. 7, August 1967. Edited and published by Len and June Moffatt, 9826 Paramount Blvd., Downey, California 90240. This is a non-profit publication devoted to the works of John D. MacDonald. Associate Editors: Ed Cox and William J. Clark.

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Next Issue : An article by Ed Cox on the science-fiction stories of John D. MacDonald, checklists and clue sheets of JDM's slick magazine stories and articles, and the usual departments (PWF, etc.) We hope to have the next issue ready for the mails some time in November, so the deadline for material and letters is October 7, 1967.

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LAST-MINUTE NOTES
 (August 20, 1967)

This first page of JDMB7 is the last one being typed. We had hoped to have this issue ready for the mails earlier this month, but the editing-stenciling-mimeographing process was delayed by such circumstances as visiting relatives, vacations, attending the West Coast Science Fiction Conference, illness, and so on. Except for the illness, we enjoyed all of these events, though they did use up some of the spare time we would normally use on our publishing hobby. At the moment, we have 17 pages of stencils typed, and we hope to have the mag mimeographed by next weekend. After that comes the collating, stapling, stamping and mailing...

Our Rowing Editor, Bill Clark, keeps sending us new information, all of which will be used in the Master Checklist, which we plan to publish some time in the first half of 1968. Among (many) other things, he has discovered a JDM pseudonym that we didn't know about. DETECTIVE TALES, May 1950, has a 3,700 word story "The Long, Red Night", by "John Lane". It happens to be one of the clue sheet stories listed in JDMB5, bottom of page 6. Author's original title was "Unbroken".

ELLERY QUEEN'S MYSTERY MAGAZINE, October 1967, has reprinted "Dead To The World" under a new title "No Business For An Amateur". It originally appeared in DIME DETECTIVE, February 1947.

SF YEARBOOK (No. 1, 1967) has reprinted "Ring Around The Redhead", which first appeared in STARTLING STORIES, November 1948.

Both EQMM and SF YEARBOOK are on the stands here in the L.A. area. The EQMM is a "Special International Issue" with detective fiction from all over the world. The SF YEARBOOK also features reprints by Bradbury, Sturgeon, Edmond Hamilton and other well-known s-f writers.

ATTENTION: DETECTIVE MYSTERY SUSPENSE FANS

As you know, the JDMB is devoted to the works of just one writer. However, we are reasonably sure that many of you would love to see a journal devoted to the mystery field in general, with news, reviews, articles, checklists, etc., covering any and all writers of mystery fiction. We know that we would, and it seems that we are going to get our wish!

For information on THE ARMCHAIR DETECTIVE, write to:

Allen J. Hubin
3656 Midland Avenue
White Bear Lake, Minnesota 55110

All plans to have the first issue ready by October. It is to be a quarterly, and can be had for a subscription of \$2.00 for four issues. It is to be printed multilith (or offset) and, having read his plans in detail, we feel that it should turn out to be a magazine well worth getting from the very first issue. -l&jm

THE SEEK & SWAP DEPARTMENT

Alan Dashiell, 826 Carteret Ave., Trenton, N.J. 08618, needs the following: Ballroom of the Skies, Border Town Girl, Contrary Pleasure, The Blood Game, The House Guests, The Lethal Sex, Weep For Me and Wine of the Dreamers. Will buy--maybe swap?

Leonard Broom, 337 E. 50th St., New York, N.Y. 10022 needs the following: Ballroom of the Skies, Border Town Girl, Contrary Pleasure, I Could Go On Singing, Planet of the Dreamers, The House Guests, The Lethal Sex and Weep For Me. He doesn't have duplicates in his own collection to swap, but will buy.

Wendell V. Howard, 2518 LaVeta Dr. NE, Albuquerque N.M. still needs the following: I Could Go On Singing, Contrary Pleasure, Border Town Girl, Weep For Me, The House Guests, The Lethal Sex and The Blood Game. He too will buy--or swap, as he has many duplicates.

If you have duplicates of any of these titles--or are willing to part with them--write directly to these gentlemen, not to us. We are willing to print want lists and swap offers, but all negotiations must be between thee and thou, okey?

One of these times we'll get around to publishing our want list of JDM titles. Hmmm...seems to be space left on this page, so we'll do it now. We need: Ballroom of the Skies, The Blood Game, Border Town Girl, Contrary Pleasure, The Crossroads, The Lethal Sex, Wine of the Dreamers (we have Planet of the Dreamers in pb, thanks to one Lee Jacobs, but would like the hardcover "Wine") Weep For Me, The House Guests and No Deadly Medicine. Make us an offer...

Len & June

Please Write For Details

The Readers Write...

...((The Editors Reply - ljm & jmm))

Perhaps we should explain to new readers that this is our letter column cum editorial comment. Rather than write a separate editorial, we include our editorial notes, news and comment here.

To bring everybody up to date, we repeat the following information:

The basic purpose of the JDM BIBLIOPHILE project is to track down and list everything that John D. Mac Donald has had published. In past issues of JDMB we have published checklists of his magazine stories in Doc Savage, The Shadow, science fiction mags and detective pulp mags. We have also published "clue sheets" that tell us about stories he sold but does not know when or where they were published. Readers with access to old magazines, working with the clue sheets, have been able to track down most of these missing stories. Bill Clark has done a tremendous job of tracking down and identifying these old stories. Others have helped too, but Bill has done more than anybody on this phase of the project, for which we and Mr. MacDonald are duly grateful.

In this issue you'll find checklists of more JDM magazine stories, and some more "clue sheets" relating to the checklists. Next issue will feature a checklist of JDM's slick magazine stories, etc.

Now--once we have compiled as complete a set of checklists as is humanly possible, we will publish all of them in one volume--A Master Checklist of the Published Writings of John D. MacDonald.

In the meantime--and even thereafter, if your interest continues at its present level--we will continue to publish JDMB. In order to do this we will need more articles, reviews, and--of course--letters.

The first five issues of JDMB are out of print, and there are only a few spare copies of the sixth issue available at this writing. We have had more than one offer from kind readers to reprint the past issues. However, we are not sure that these offers included the job of mailing out copies to all and sundry. In any case, much as we appreciate the offers, we plan to reprint the more important material from past issues in future issues of this mag. Of course, all the checklists will appear in the Master Checklist, and the only other major items are Ed Cox's article on "Early JD", and a short piece by MacDonald himself.

Several readers have asked for biographical information on ourselves--as well as on JDM. We will, eventually, compile a biographical note on JDM from the various clippings and notes that he has sent to us, and as for ourselves...

June is a secretary in the main office of a local (Southern California) food market chain. I'm a sales correspondent for a folding carton (paper box) manufacturer. June and I were married last December, having each been married before. Both of us have been active in the science-fiction fan field (s-f fandom) for many years. That means attending club meetings, conventions, publishing fanzines, writing, and on into the night. And--obviously--we are also readers of mystery fiction, as well as all sorts of literature. (One of these days we'll have to catalog our combined collections of books, paperback and hardcover. I'd hate to guess at the total number, but we are always in need of more shelf space in this house!)

Reading, writing and amateur publishing are part and parcel of our hobby. We also like good movies, theatre, music, piano bars, traveling, visiting, parties and Sam Umbrage.

Now, let's get to a sampling of the letters sent in response to our last issue:

PALMER BAYER, Chicago, Ill.: For what it is worth, add my name to...the group who want to see more of the short stories reprinted. Perhaps we should all write to Fawcett urging a regular series of collections. // Is it true that the Coppolino book is to be non-fiction?

((Most publishers love to get letters from readers. They can't answer all of them, of course, but if enough letters are written regarding any one book or writer, they are quite likely to consider the requests. //We think that the Coppolino book will be non-fiction; see our News & Previews Dept. -ljm))

MR. & MRS. TRENT FRAYNE, Ontario, Canada: If you drop us from your subscription list, we will kill ourselves.

((Now that's what I call a sincere response to our small efforts! Bless you, we won't, so please don't. -ljm))

ANTHONY BOUCHER, Berkeley, Calif.: Wish I had time for a long loc on latest BIBLIO-FILE, which is unusually interesting. //But a couple of quick corrections: BORDER TOWN GIRL, which you list as a novel, is 2 unconnected novellas (between 25,000 & 30,000): the title story (which appeared in Dime Det 1950 as FIVE STAR FUGITIVE) & LINDA (possibly 1st publication). //It is Ross Macdonald, not MacDonald. //Please write 100 times: John D. MacDonald, Philip MacDonald, but Ross Macdonald. John D. MacDonald, Philip MacDonald, but Ross Macdonald... //If you get this right next time, I will even forgive June her theory of alphabetization. //Anybody else agree with my (tentative) opinion that THE LAST ONE LEFT is the best JDM yet?

((As we said last time, the original list of "Novels of JDM" came from JDM himself. We don't have a copy of "Border Town Girl", so had no way of knowing its actual content. We will probably retitle the list as "Books of JDM" in our Master Checklist. //Thanks, Tony, for both corrections, but fair is fair, so you might have the editor, typesetter or proofreader for EQMM write 100 times: Moffatt not Moffat, Moffatt not Moffat... -ljm))

BARBARA KOHL, Brooklyn, N.Y.: In his introduction to the Shlock Homes book by Robert L. Fish, Anthony Boucher makes a rather cryptic reference to the Misadventures of Sherlock Holmes by Ellery Queen. Could you relay the question to him about what he meant? I have a first edition of the book and am rather curious.

((Tony? -ljm))

CLAY KIMBALL, Draper, N.C.: Didn't John D. cause Ross Macdonald to change his name? As I recall he was John R. but changed to Ross because he was constantly being confused with John D. //The last story listed in the Danish mag is "Raffles and Miss Blandish", which you can find in "Mass Culture: The Popular Arts in America" (if you can find "M.C."). It also has several other articles on detective fiction.

((Ross Macdonald's real name is Kenneth Millar. He did use John Macdonald and John R. Macdonald as pen-names, but has been writing under Ross Macdonald for some time now. We understand that this change was due to efforts made by John D. MacDonald (whose real name is John Dann MacDonald) or his publisher, but our information on this point is 2nd or 3rd hand. Perhaps we can clear up this point when we put together our biographical article on JDM. -ljm))

POUL ANDERSON, Orinda, Calif.: Am enjoying your JDM Bibliophile, which is more than I can say for most fanzines. But then, I'll go so far as to say that your man is one of our most important living writers--and not in mystery or any other goddamn category, just important, period. //As it happens, I can translate the Danish for you.

Arbog: Yearbook (as you deduced).

Poe-Klubben: The Poe Club (definite article is a suffix).

Indholdsfortegnelse: Table of Contents (as you also deduced).

The titles, in order, mean:

What Happened to (or in) 1964? (This one must be Swedish rather than Danish.)

Why Maigret is Big and Fat

Josephine Tey, a Re-evaluation

The Future of the Detective (possibly elliptical for "Detective Story"; I'd have to see the text to be sure.)

The Noblest Game in the World (with an introduction). (Or the adjective could be something like "Most Distinguished", "Foremost", etc. This is obviously a translation, and perhaps you can identify the original.)

Experiments With Cornerstones

Edgar Allan Poe and the Cinema

The Baker Street Mystery

Conversation with Margery Allingham

Raffles and Miss Blandish

"Pas nu på det mudderhul, Watson!" "Look out now for that mudhole, Watson!"

MRS. CARL F. (HELEN) STRAUCH, Bèthlehem, Pa.: Here is the translation I was able to get for you, over the 'phone, from a Lehigh professor...Finn Jensen (who is, I believe, Norwegian, but understands Danish):

What Happened in 1964?

Why Maigret is Big and Fat

Josephine Tey, a reconsideration

The Detective's Future

The (Most Expert) Play In The World (Professor Jensen says his translation of "fornemste" is not literal, I gathered that it means "something outstanding" in any event.)

Edgar Allan Poe and Films (Movies)

Conversation with Margery Allingham

Raffles and Miss Blandish

((Thanks to both of you for the translations. We published both sets as we think they make an interesting comparison. -ljm & jmm))

HARALD MOGENSEN, Politiken, Rådhuspladsen 37, Kjøbenhavn V, Danmark: I see that you have included the year-books of the Poe Club...and I was very pleased to read your kind mention--your translation to "year-book" is quite right. Spektrum is the publishing firm that issues the book. The year-book No. 3 will come out in Spring 1968, and this will contain contributions in English.

((The Poe Club yearbooks are nicely done, and are intriguing volumes. Those of you who are interested might contact Mr. Mogensen for subscription information, etc.))

RICH MANN, (A2C), CMR Box 721, March AFB, Calif. 92508: The news that Travis McGee is going Hollywood gives me pause. I can only hope that Travis does considerably better than Matt Helm did. Poor Mr. Helm was totally destroyed, if not worse, by the movie people. Matter of

fact, the motion picture Matt Helm is everything that the Helm of literature stands against and despises. With my luck, Travis McGee will be played by Jerry Lewis. // If you run across anyone who displays a vague interest in Carter Brown, you might send them to me. I once, in a fit of folly, published a small list of the Carter Brown series, and have managed to obtain most of the Brown books of the last five or six years or so. I almost hesitate to mention it; it's almost sacreligious to consider Carter Brown in the same letter with JDM.

((The first McGee movie is to be shot in Florida, with JDM himself as advisor, so we aren't likely to get another Helm fiasco. //Our knowledge of Carter Brown's works is limited, but leave us not get "religious" about JDM. We are reasonably sure that he would not want a JDM cult formed to worship him as the only true and living author/god of modern literature. Obviously there are a host of JDM enthusiasts for which we're sure he's duly grateful, but we know that MacDonald himself has a good deal of respect for any and all working writers. One of these days we'll find out who his favorite writers are. -ljm))

DAVE STAMPFLI, Carrollton, Mo.: It will be interesting to see who lands the Trav McGee part. How about Paul Newman, Rod Taylor or James Garner?

CYNTHIA D. SCHWEPPE, Carlisle, Mass.: We agree with Mr. Kniepp--Troy Donahue is not Travis McGee. Since Clark Gable is no longer with us, how about Lee Marvin or the actor who can play anyone--Walter Matthau.

MARVIN LACHMAN, Bronx, N.Y.: I can see Steve McQueen or Lee Marvin in the part although I think the late Jeff Chandler might have been best of all. I hope Paul Newman doesn't play it, otherwise knowing Hollywood economics, the name of our hero may end up as "Hickey" in the same way Archer of Ross Macdonald became "Harper". Don't Sell Out, JDM!!!

(THE REV.) STEPHEN C. WILLIAMSON, Vicar, 217 Bacon St., Jermyn, Pa., 18433: In the JDMB 6, you announce that Trav will soon be seen on the "silver screen". I trust that JDM will work closely on the scripts of all proposed films - you mention only the "initial film". I'd hate to see one good film and eight "another seductive scene in the sex life of Trav McGee" type bombs. //After reading The Last One Left and knowing a little of the true background of the story, and reading that JDM is at work on a novel based on the Coppolino trials, I started wondering about The End of The Night. In some ways there seems to be a connection between this book and the case of the Clutter murders now made famous by Truman Capote's In Cold Blood. There is enough similarity to make me wonder, and enough difference to question my own thoughts. I'd be interested in your thoughts on this. //I'm glad that you are including addresses in the "Please Write For Details" section. I'd like to know about other JDM fans in this area (Northeastern Pennsylvania) - who knows, they may have some JDM's I've missed. //I'd also like to second the suggestion of Dave Stampfli's that Fawcett reprint some of the stories from the 40's and early 50's. The two that I read in Doc Savage were good, not as good, perhaps, as The Last One Left, but my first sermons weren't as good as some of the more recent ones, either.

ALAN APPELBAUM, New York, N.Y.: The use of the word "suave" in the...press release is particularly disconcerting. Hopefully JDM's participation will prevent a real job from being done on McGee such as the Dean Martin version of Matt Helm.

JUNE JOHNSTON, Odessa, Texas: I am also in sympathy with your efforts to lobby a suitable McGee for the movies. (Especially after seeing those ghastly Matt Helm things.)

((If we have a "lobby" going here it is thanks to all of you who wrote regarding McGee in the movies. Mr. MacDonald will be reading your comments--if we ever get this issue printed and mailed!--and will be happy to see them, as he long ago expressed his own desire that McGee would not be "sold out". //To switch from the editorial "we" to the personal--my own choice for McGee would be Burt Lancaster--given a good director he can act. June and I are partial to Lee Marvin too; we're sure he could act the role, but aren't sure he is the type physically. However, it might be best if an "unknown" played the role. A competent actor who looks the part with a competent screen writer and director. We are almost willing to believe that JDM himself could play the role, although we have no idea whether or not he would be a good actor. We avoided the Mike Hammer films starring Mickey Spillane, mostly because we didn't care much for the Hammer books. But I guess it was a good commercial gimmick. We wouldn't want JDM to play McGee for the sake of a gimmick, but a man with so much talent in the creative field of excellent writing might possibly have something on the ball as an actor, too. (The less said about Spillane in either field, the better.) Lord knows he'd know the character he was playing, which is more than can be said for many actors.

TOM & SUE MADER, Philadelphia, Pa.: Questions: (1) How does one gain access to copies of the 50M short stories that appeared in now-defunct magazines? (2) Is there any connection between JDM and Richard Stark?

((Answers: (1) By searching used book and magazine stores, Salvation Army stores, etc. That's the hard way, but the only way to get the original mags. An easier way is to swamp the publishers' mailbox with requests to reprint the old stories in paperback or hardcovers. (2) We know of no connection between JDM and Richard Stark. And thanks for a very nice letter. We wish we could publish all of every letter received, but we have time and space for only a sampling. You are all lovely people. -ljm & jmm))

ROBERT TURNER, 6637 Franklin Ave., Hollywood, Calif. 90028: Clayton Matthews was good enough to loan me a couple of copies of your JDM Bibliophiles (#4 & #5), since I know John D. and am an admirer of his work. It's a great project. I just wish to God somebody would do the same for my work, some day. Although I'm no JDM, talent-wise, I've had way, way over a thousand stories published, in the original pulps, the later smaller pulps, such as MANHUNT, PURSUIT, HUNTED, ALFRED HITCHCOCK, etc., in comic magazines, the original SPICY STORIES type magazines and their follow-ups, SILK STOCKING STORIES, HIGH HEEL MAGAZINE, etc., as well as slicks such as Collier's, Elk's Magazine, Playboy, Bluebook, etc. and dozens of Men's type mags such as ROGUE, HI-LIFE, etc. etc., as well as 40 or 50 novels of all categories. In the pulps I wrote mostly crime-suspense stuff but also did a lot of sports fiction, westerns and western-romance (Rangeland Romances, etc.) and one fantasy piece which appeared in IF and one stf piece. Also wrote TV scripts for MIKE HAMMER, THIS MAN DAWSON, CORONADO 9, TOMBSTONE TERRITORY, SHOTGUN SLADE, etc. The reason I go into all this is that of all these stories, I have copies of only about 60. The rest were lost, strayed or stolen and several hundred disappeared when furnishings I left too long in storage without payment, were auctioned off. I would dearly love to have copies of any of my stories, that any of your readers might have. //I've been privileged to have had correspondence with John in the past, but idiotically did not save the letters. Also met him in Sarasota and had lunch and booze with him and Wyatt Blassingame, McKinley Kantor and some other writers, and found him to be one of the finest people I've ever met. He's as personable and helpful as he is talented.

ROBERT O'NEILL, Delmar, N.Y.: Especially enjoyed some of the letters and I agree, I'd like to see an article by Pete Peterson.

IRV MORSE, Brooklyn, N.Y.: How about a section where readers contribute a list of their approximate 10 favorites?

((We believe that Mr. Morse is referring to your 10 favorite detective stories, rather than your ten favorite stories by JDM only. He also included a long list of books by various mystery writers (JDM, Bloch, Carr, McBain, etc. etc.) which at first we took to be a Want List, but have determined it to be a list of books he especially recommends. Sorry we haven't the space to print it here. If it is a Want List, Irv, please holler and we'll run it next time in the Seek & Swap Dept. He also asked for more reviews of old and new mystery books, JDM or otherwise. We recommend that he--and the rest of you--contact Al Hubin; see Announcement in this issue. -ljm))

MRS. EUGENE (KATHY) HOBEL, 8304 Whelan Drive, San Diego, Calif. 92119: Enjoyed your JDMB. I have no information about JDM, but can help others on checklists on the following: Margery Allingham, John Dickson Carr, Agatha Christie, Elizabeth Daly, Carter Dickson, Andrew Garve, Bert Halliday, Michael Innes, Ngaio Marsh, Hugh Pentecost, Ellery Queen, Rex Stout, Arthur W. Upfield. I would also like some help on these and others.

((Speaking of Rex Stout, does anyone share my view that the Nero Wolfe stories were far more interesting in the days before Stout killed off Marko Vukcic? -jmm))

C. J. SKINDER, Wareham, Mass.: I think (JDM) is a writer who has grown over the years. I thought that in "The Last One Left" he achieved his best form yet.

MRS. EMMETT J. (JEAN) BONNER, Jr., Boulder Col.: I agree with Mr. Rohde (JDMB) in regard to an occasional ride over an old route. Were MacDonald not one of my favorite authors, I wouldn't pay \$4.95 for a book ("The Last One Left") which read, except for a few brilliant paragraphs, so much like an elongated version of several other stories at one-tenth the price. //Still, I can't get to a new MacDonald (or previously unread reprint) fast enough. Had I a third of his talent, I would probably shoot myself in my delirium. May all of his royalty checks be big ones!

ROBERT G. HAYMAN, Antiquarian Books, RFD 1, Carey Ohio 43316: We deal in rare and scarce Americana. Our interest in detective fiction is as a hobby and we have a good collection of detective and mystery fiction, including pulps. We are contemplating compiling a bibliography of the writings of Ross Macdonald, a special favorite of ours, and if any of your readers should have information on magazine stories by him (or other writings that may not be generally known) I would certainly appreciate hearing from them.

ED COX, Arleta, Calif.: I hereby officially respond as a FAPA member who wishes to continue to receive JDMB and as a reader who wishes to remain on the mailing list. Now am I safe? Should I use Ice Blue Secret also? // I would like to add my "vote" to those wishing for more collections of some of MacDonald's older pulp stories. The synopses and opening lines of a lot of those stories...whet my appetite for the complete ones, especially the longer stories. And, of course, I would like to know what progress, if any, has been made regarding some of the earlier "novels" as mentioned in "Early JD" in a previous issue of JDMB.

((As you know, you are one of the few who does not have to respond to each issue in order to stay on our mailing list for JDMB. Your help, past and current, is more than enough to keep your card in our active file. Friends such as you and Bill Clark are considered as part of JDMB's staff. (There is also the fact that Ed has

been a good friend of ours for around 20 years...) //No word from JDM on whether or not more of his old stories will be reprinted, but we keep hoping, and, as we've said, if enough readers write to the publishers... -ljm))

MRS. LARRY L. KEELEY, Jacksonville, N.C.: In reading the list of novels by MacDonald, you listed one titled "The Executioners". I knew the title sounded familiar, but after checking books of my own I found that I had read a book by that title, but it was by John Creasey. The titles are exact. Shouldn't there be some sort of lawful ruling against authors using the same titles?

((We doubt if such a ruling would be practicable or workable. We suspect that there are more than two books entitled "The Executioners", for instance--as the title could apply to various kinds of events or situations. Authors do copyright their works, using their titles as part of the identification on the stories they are copyrighting, but with the thousands of titles issued each year it would be impossible to avoid coincidences such as this. It should be noted that Creasey's book was probably first published in England and copyrighted there, whereas JDM's books are copyrighted here. And of course writers of the stature of MacDonald and Creasey would not deliberately use another's title if they knew about its previous use. Neither would their publishers, who oftentimes change the titles from the author's original working title. -ljm)) ((It may be pointed out that there is at least one other duplication of title--"The Deceivers" by John Masters--a story of the Thuggee sect of India, and part of a series by that author. -jmm))

J. PRINCE, New York, N.Y.: If you want to do a checklist on Cornell Woolrich, you will find the names of 36 short stories listed in the March 1949 ELLERY QUEEN MYSTERY MAGAZINE. A checklist of the works of D. Hammett can be found in the MERCURY MYSTERY MAGAZINE No. 233, published in 1962, called "A Man Named Thin & Other Stories".

((One master checklist of one author is enough to keep us out of the pool halls for some time. However, others may be interested in the above information, and may want to act on it. There's Al Hubin's proposed magazine, for instance... -ljm))

PAT McLAUGHLIN, Arlington, Va.: I'm ashamed to admit that I've always more or less considered crime fiction to be sub-standard literary fare (hardly an uncommon attitude), but my interest was stimulated by some of my wife's paperback mysteries I picked up one day, and later by reading Boucher's first-class critiques in EQMM and the N. Y. TIMES. Needless to say, I've been greatly surprised to discover the wide variety of styles and the very considerable amount of excellent writing that are available in the field. //It may be a trivial point, but I wonder if public attitudes toward crime fiction haven't been conditioned, to a certain extent, by the cheap and lurid wrappers that characterized the paperback editions in the '30s, '40s and early '50s. Much more intriguing and relevant to the literature are covers, for example, like the ones Dell produced for its reprints of Eric Ambler's early works, or those eerie, surrealistic paintings fronting the Ballantine pb editions of Charity Blackstock's books.

((Many pb and magazine publishers--like many TV commercial producers, magazine ad writers, etc.--operate on the theory that Sex Sells Everything. Lurid covers have been the bane of magazine readers for years--in the science fiction field as well as the mystery field. And, as you say, more often than not, the lurid, "sexy" cover illos had little to do with the content of the mag. -ljm)) ((Or, in other words, you still can't judge a book by its cover. -jmm))

BOB BRINEY, West Lafayette, Ind.: Starting a Great Checklist Project on...John Creasey would be a foolhardy undertaking indeed. Not that he isn't worthy of it, having written many excellent books--under a couple of dozen pen-names. I've been trying for years to compile a checklist of all of Creasey's books (and to accumulate the books themselves). So far I have a list of about 410 titles, of which I own, and have read, about 250...

((We agree that trying to compile a complete checklist on Creasey and other such prolific writers would be a tremendous job. That's why we are limiting our current efforts to JDM's works only, and he isn't exactly a non-prolific author! Still, it would be nice to see more checklists of the better writers. One way to do it is to publish the list of titles you know about, and hope that others will add to it, so that it can be revised and republished at a later date. Or, better still, get someone else to do the publishing work for you... -ljm))

JACK CUTHBERT, Greensburg, Pa.: Questions: (1) How did (JDM) get involved in writing that one about Judy Garland? (2) Anybody know if there is any connection among any of these other favorites of mine? (No wise cracks, especially from a J. Tey fan): Jack LaFlin, Phillip Atlee, Ed Aarons--who is almost as prolific as the MacDonald. (3) How come JDM lost track of so many published stories? I would have haunted the magazine racks by day and night if I thought something of mine was being published.

((Answers: (1) We don't know. We suspect he was asked to write a pb based on the screenplay for I COULD GO ON SINGING. We didn't see movie, but June has read the book and says it is quite good. Whether or not the movie is worth seeing would probably depend on whether or not you like Judy Garland. (2) We don't know--but somebody out there may have an answer for you. (3) JDM was out of the country when many of his stories were published. And then there's the sporadicness of newsstand distributions, and the fact that most editors do not forward copies of the mags to the writers. And, when one is busy writing thousands of words a week, one may not have the time to haunt the newsstands to find copies of one's stories. (Heard from Edco?) -ljm)) ((I fail to comprehend your snide implications, sirrah! Just what is wrong with being a J. Tey fan? Incidentally, congratulations on your use of "among" instead of "between". It's nice to meet a grammarian occasionally! -jmm))

J. C. STEVENS, Ferguson, Mo. writes re "discrepancies" in our list of Novels by JDM. We can only repeat that the original list came from MacDonald himself, and obviously listed only first editions and those reprints extant at the time he compiled the list (May 1964). All we have added to the list are new titles that have come out since then, and reprints we've picked up that were issued since then. The list is not complete in that it does not contain all of the reprints and reprints of reprints. To give an example: The Executioners was published in hardcovers by Simon & Schuster in 1958. It was reprinted in Crest Book k788 under the title of Cape Fear. The reprint date is not given in the copy we have. (We have both the S&S hardcover and the Crest pb.) We have not seen the Gold Medal reprint you mentioned. When was it issued? We assume from your letter that it used "The Executioners" title. We don't have the space here to go into the other titles you listed as reprints by Gold Medal, etc., but will use your info when compiling the Master Checklist. This is the kind of help we need and want! -ljm

JOHN CHEESBOROUGH, Jr., Asheville, N.C.: Incidentally--though I have never met JDM--I fish regularly with one of his guides, Captain "Snapper" Butler, out of Everglades City, Florida. He also enjoys JDM's books.

((Thanks, John, for the clipping of Pete Peterson's column; it proved quite helpful. -ljm))

GEORGE R. BERRYMAN, Washington, D.C.: I was greatly pleased to receive yesterday the Bibliophile No. 6, and my ego was enhanced when I saw you had quoted from the postcard I sent; since you got my middle initial wrong, there was no danger of ego bloatement. //I hope JDM takes your labors seriously enough to read every living word of the mimeos you distribute. Because in this way I hope to persuade him to make a correction in future editions of "Darker Than Amber". //In Chapter Two, page 23, of the Fawcett Gold Medal 1966 printing, he has Meyer suggesting to his friend Travis McGee that he read "what Mark Twain had written about choosing a mistress". Meyer's character is represented as being knowledgeable. //Although Twain wrote several sketches of a kind not usually included in his collected works, the gent who wrote "Advice to a Young Man on the Choice of a Mistress" was Benjamin Franklin, also a swinger. //I can supply a source on request.

((Sorry about getting your middle initial wrong--as greivous an error as leaving a "t" off of Moffatt. Our apologies--it was one of those typographical errors that sneak in here and there in spite of all our efforts to avoid them. -ljm))

MRS. J. L. (NANCY) POTTER, Douglasville, Ga.: Since my engineer husband is a now and then mystery writer, with four published novels, you might be interested in hearing that Gold Medal wrote him enthusiastically about his "Jeff Tyler/Loafalong" series (a salvage diver, ex-engineer "detective") but reported they were just about to publish a similar sea-type series (Travis McGee) by MacDonald, so naturally didn't want another in similar vein. We were complimented by the association. He wrote of the Blue-Bell incident a few years back, and it is interesting to see how different authors take a news happening and create different stories. If we still have a copy (so many of ours burned) I'll forward it. "The Last One Left" is, of course, MacDonald's for the same incident. I'm waiting with anticipation to see what he makes of the Coppolino trials. //If you or anyone else tackles a similar (checklist) project on Hamilton, we would be interested. My husband has some interesting theories on his writing before he began the Matt Helm series.

((Mrs. Potter reported, in the same letter, that a fire destroyed their collection of books, magazines, records, etc. They have re-collected some of the JDM pbs, but not all of them, so they too vote for a swap dept. We have one this issue, and will continue it as long as readers send us their want lists--and what they have to exchange. So send us your list, Potters, and may we extend our condolences at having "17 years accumulation of living" destroyed by fire. We know how we would feel if it happened to us! -ljm & jmm))

L. H. ZELDERS, Amsterdam, Holland: Somewhere we read something about a book with the title A SMILE OF OCHRE. Is this written by JDM or by one of the other MacDonalds?

((The title is unfamiliar to us, but perhaps one of our readers can answer your question. Mr. Zelders, by the way, works for Born N.V., who publish Dutch editions of the Travis McGee stories. He kindly sent us two of the titles (DE SNELLE RODE VOS - THE QUICK RED FOX and HET FEL ORANJE DOODSKLEED - BRIGHT ORANGE FOR THE SHROUD). ONE FEARFUL YELLOW EYE is next on their list. We have asked Mr. Zelders to supply us with a checklist of JDM in Dutch editions, for use in the Master Checklist to come. -ljm))

LEONARD BROOM, New York, N.Y. also sent us a revised list of JDM novels. It is incomplete but lists later reprint editions, and will be useful in compiling our Master Checklist.

WENDELL V. HOWARD, Albuquerque, N.M.: Have enjoyed reading various readers' reactions to unnecessary deaths in the JDM novels. My own opinion, which counts for nothing, really, is that these deaths, as they occur in MacDonald's stories, are much closer to real life than the always-happy ending. I have flown 38 different types of aircraft, some pretty hot stuff, yet broke my back and became a paraplegic in a J-3 Cub. My good friend, Major Jake Jabara, shot down 71 German planes in WW II, was the first jet ace in the world in the Korean War, flew combat in Vietnam, and then was killed last December when his 16 year old daughter drove their car off a Florida highway. So, to my way of thinking, the young lady living for days with four killers in "The End of The Night", having her life saved by one of the killers, and then rolling over unconscious into the water and drowning, is probably the way it would really have happened, than to be happily re-united with her boy-friend. I think that's what make MacDonald's books so outstanding--they are real.

HARRY WARNER, Jr., Hagerstown, Md.: Your kindness in sending the first non-FAPA JDM Bibliophile is most gratifying. If you could keep me on the mailing list as long as I can think of relevant things to say in a loc, I would be most happy. As you've probably guessed from the mailing comments in Horizons, I am not an all-out MacDonald enthusiast and I am quite a distance removed from the status of an expert on mystery and crime stories in general. However, unhappy experiences in the past have convinced me that it is much safer to grab as much as possible involving peripheral interests, because of the strong possibility that they will eventually become all-consuming manias. Just in the past year, for instance, I've found myself going bats over movies, which I'd taken or left for many years in much the same manner as I've reacted to the JDM canon. //I even re-read June's pages, which I'd encountered not long ago in FAPA. I think I took your side in Horizons about the manner in which you've been using the article in your index of titles. It would be awfully nice if some writer with a big enough reputation to get away with it would write a story in which the title was identical with some other celebrated story, except for misplacing the article at the end, like: Gold Bug, The. Would the research people list identically two titles that were different when published, or would they index that title under the T's and start it out with the article? //Danish is a language with which I've had too little contact to be helpful. I have a few Danish-English song texts in the two languages on record albums and in collections of printed music, but they aren't sufficient to show me where the translation is literal and where the English version departs radically from the Danish. Danish to my eyes, however, looks quite a bit like Swedish: I can let my eyes run through a page in either language at the same pace as I'd read English, with the same sensation that I'm getting some of the meaning that I sometimes get when I'm reading English at a time when I'm too tired or sleepy to concentrate properly and receive only a hazy general impression of the subject matter. //I get some pleasure out of reading the opening paragraphs of the stories whose published places are sought. They could teach a beginning writer a lot about the importance of openings: the need to present to the reader quickly some situation or event that will catch his attention, the ways in which semantically loaded words can foreshadow in the first few sentences the general tone of the story that lies ahead. But there's also an element of sadness involved in reading these incipits, because the market for magazine fiction has shrunk so close to invisibility and it's so unlikely that any given young person with writing talent will try to learn the art of this kind of writing. He is much more likely to try to write a novel about his experiences under the latest drug or to seek to imitate the stylistic traits of the continuity writers for a best-selling comic book. //In any event, I'm glad you've had such unforeseen success with the publication. Maybe it's too much to hope that this outgrowth of (science-fiction) fandom will eventually bring some of the people it has interested into fandom. But it would be nice if it did, because the strange names who appear in your letter section sound like intelligent and mature people who would be welcome as contributors to general fanzines.

WILLIAM A. SLEEPER, Libertyville, Ill.: I want to pass on to you two "news" items, though perhaps not news to you. In "The Empty Trap", which has a publication date of 1957,--I found the following sentence--on page 57: "Lloyd Weston first met Harry Danton in the late summer of 1963". Has Mr. MacDonald gone back and up-dated his books? I just wondered. //You might also be interested to know that Mr. MacDonald's short story, "Hit and Run", has been published in a collection called 52 Miles to Terror. It is published by Scholastic Book Services and bears an April 1966 copyright. The book is intended for the teen-age reader.

((The Empty Trap was first published in 1957 by Popular Library, and reprinted this year by Fawcett Gold Medal. The updating in the story may have been done by the author--or by an editor at Fawcett. Thanks for the info on "Hit and Run"--and for your monetary contribution! -ljm)) ((The updating might also have been done by the lowly typographical error, you know. -jmm))

* * * * * -30- * * * * *

And that winds up the lettercol this time. Keep writing, friends; we appreciate all your letters and cards, and only wish we could publish all of them.

-ljm & jmm

* * * * * -30- * * * * *

RANDOM THOUGHTS

ON JDM

AND THE FRUSTRATION OF THE EXPECTED

by Francis M. Nevins, Jr.

We seem to have inherited from the Greeks an almost subliminal faith in the parallelism of physics and ethics, that is, the belief that evil is inevitably followed by retribution. Although we know that the proposition is false in real life, we desire and expect it to be "true" in the fiction we read, at least the "light" fiction. The ways in which JDM frustrates our expectation reveal some interesting points about the operations of his creative mind.

One of the best recent examples is his Nightmare In Pink. We are presented with a long, slow buildup, with intimations of colossal criminality slowly increasing, until McGee's hallucinations begin and the ground is jerked from under our feet. The confrontation between McGee and Mulligan and the doctors at the mental hospital chills the bones: their "experiments" prove that they have deliberately rejected every shred of humanity, of compassion. They are the moral monsters of nightmare and they are utterly real. Are they paid back in kind by the end of the book, as we expect and long for? Hardly. It is the innocents who pay for them. McGee must kill four innocent people before he can escape from the hospital; the lives of countless others have suffered unbearable damage; and Mulligan, whose capture we do not even witness, receives three years' imprisonment for embezzlement and income tax evasion.

Is this a "pleasantly" cynical outlook (as Monte Davis suggested in JDMB No. 6)? I doubt it. Rather, JDM has used all of his talent to be unpleasant. The ending of J. Lee Thompson's film of Cape Fear (the inhuman villain beaten to a pulp by Gregory Peck) is pleasant; that of JDM's novel (the same character merely dies offstage of bullet wounds received much earlier) is frustrating to our sense of justice, but much more honest than the film.

* * * * *

NEWS & PREVIEW

The 9th McGee novel, PALE GREY FOR GUILT, should be on the stands now, although --as of this writing (August 16)--we haven't seen it yet. It was due in February, but was delayed by the Coppolino trial.

Mr. MacDonald attended both of the Coppolino trials, and is currently working on a book which "will be absolutely unconcerned about guilt, innocence, remorse and retribution--but concerned only with what a trial is really like". Pete Schmidt, a Tampa Tribune reporter, may collaborate in the writing of the book, having shared in the legwork.

Watch for the book in October of 1968--from Doubleday, and from Fawcett. The title is NO DEADLY MEDICINE.

THE LAST ONE LEFT is to be reprinted by Fawcett early in 1968. A condensed version of the novel appeared in Argosy, July 1967. Joe Mankiewicz will direct the film version.

Another movie to watch for (aside from the first McGee movie announced in our last issue) is THE GIRL, THE GOLD WATCH & EVERYTHING--starring Jack Lemmon.

That's a total of three movies based on JDM novels, none of which will be ready for distribution until next year, or perhaps the year after. It takes time to negotiate, of course, and time to actually make the pictures. But we feel that all three will be worth waiting for. Mr. MacDonald is not inclined to sell his stories for filming until he is certain in his own mind that the film makers will do a good job in turning them into worthwhile motion pictures.

Now, here's a switch for you: THE DEEP BLUE GOODBYE, NIGHTMARE IN PINK, and A PURPLE PLACE FOR DYING, which first appeared as pbs from Fawcett, will be reprinted in a hardcover trilogy--THREE FOR MCGEE--by Doubleday, probably this fall or winter. Price will probably be \$5.95. Collectors will be especially happy to have McGee in hardcovers, and will most likely urge the publishers to reprint the rest of the series in the same manner.

THE HOUSE GUESTS (reviewed by Ed Cox in our last issue) is still in print from Doubleday.

Our thanks to John Cheesborough, Jr. who sent us the clipping of Clarence Peterson's Chicago Tribune column that contained some of the above information. Our thanks to all of you people, wheels, et al, who keep sending us information--pray continue to do so. Don't hesitate to send information because you think we may already have it. We may, and then again, we may not. In any case, it serves to confirm it. For instance, several persons told us about the condensation of THE LAST ONE LEFT in Argosy. Actually, we had discovered it ourselves on a newsstand--though we don't normally buy the magazine. And that's the point. We might very well have missed it, so keep the info coming.

MacDONALD, JOHN D.

Most of this author's work was first published in paperback editions, but his powerful narrative drive is almost always compelling. A KEY TO THE SUITE and THE ONLY GIRL IN THE GAME are effective and sensational in a post-pulp magazine style. - A Preliminary Checklist of the Detective Novel and Its Variants, by Charles Shibuk.

Magazine Stories by John D. MacDonald

DATE	TITLE	WORDS	BYLINE
ADVENTURE			
July 1949	Death Is A Lap Ahead	9,200	JDM
July 1951	Path of Glory	(5p)	JDM
SHORT STORIES			
June 25, 1946	Blame Those Who Die	8,500	JDM
July 10, 1946	The Flying Elephants	8,000	JDM
November 25, 1946	Coward In The Game	7,200	JDM
February, 1951	The Curse of the "Star"	25,000	JDM
NEW SPORTS			
December 1948	Buzz-Saw Belter	6,400	JDM
February 1949	Fight, Scrub, Fight!	10,200	JDM
April 1950	The Plunder Five	(18p)	JDM
FIFTEEN SPORTS STORIES			
July 1949	The Glory Punch	4,700	JDM
July 1949	Bye, Bye, Backfield!	3,200	"John Wade Farrell"
July 1949	The Thunder Road	4,000	"Peter Reed"
July 1949	Blue Water Fury (reprinted in END OF THE TIGER, Gold Medal, 1966)	(9p)	"Scott O'Hara"
January 1950	Stand Up and Slug!	2,600	JDM
May 1950	Money Green	5,500	JDM
April 1951	Salute to Courage	5,500	JDM
October 1951	Cloob from Glasgow	3,800	JDM
February 1952	Hell's Belter	10,400	JDM
SPORTS NOVELS			
November 1948	Glory Blaster	9,600	JDM
March 1949	Last Chance Cleats	6,000	JDM
SUPER SPORTS			
December 1947	Big John Fights Again	6,200	JDM
GOLF			
June 1961	Double Double	2,000	JDM
FIFTEEN WESTERN TALES			
November 1949	Hang the Man High!	2,900	JDM
10 STORY WESTERN			
April 1948	The Corpse Rides At Dawn	8,400	JDM

Author's Title: BIG LEAGUE BUSHY (9,000 words)

History: Completed in July 1951, purchased by Jakkobson of Popular Publications in September. Probably appeared in one of their sports pulps in November or December, or in January, 1952.

Opening:

At the station, he grinned and waved off Digger's offer of a ride home, implying that Myrna was picking him up. After the others had gone off in all directions, Paul Muzzol walked two blocks and took a Grant Avenue bus out to the house. He walked down the hot September street from the corner, a chunky, powerful man, the slabs of restless muscle moving across his back, down his thighs. A man with a stolid face that hinted of lines of laughter, but a man whose grey eyes were chilled by uncertainty, by a corrosive fear of failure.

Situation: Muzzol is a catcher who can't take charge of the team, keep it alive, and keep it steady, and he has to find out how he can develop that ability.

* * * * *

Author's Title: SUCCESSFUL SEASON (8,500 words)

History: Aside from a notation that it was sold to Popular Publications, I have no other data. It would have appeared in one of the sports pulps in probably 1948 or 1949.

Opening:

Out of the corner of my eye, as I cut back, I saw the end dumped nicely, and saw Rip Deressa cut the feet out from under the line backer-up. My job was the safety man, and I took a quick glance over my shoulder and poured on the coal a little to pull out in front of Jay Bruce, carrying the ball.

The safety man came across fast, his mouth pulled down with strain, and I was jolted when I saw the tears on his face. I knew how he felt. State was shaking

Situation: College football narrator, Rallik, resents Coach Stallon who is tough and greedy for big scores, and uses players not fully recovered from injuries. Stallon has a heart attack, the team dogs it, loses four in a row after two opening wins. Stallon resigns, and a new coach with a different approach brings team up for final game.

* * * * *

Author's Title: Crooked Circle (5,000 words)

History: Completed in June 1947, sold in July to Fiction House for publication in FIGHT STORIES. Probably appeared during second half of 1947.

Opening:

You get it a few hundred at a time. Sometimes a thousand, or a little more. If you're smart, you stash it away in a nice clean bank and then when the kids on the way up have chopped your face until it looks like an open raw beef sandwich, you can take your husky voice and broken hands and give them a vacation on a ranch. You buy the ranch, understand?

Situation: Bart Lord is a spoiler, married, with kids, in his thirties. He has taken a few dives when he had to have the money. In his last fight he agrees to dive, then bets heavily on himself and wins, and fights his way clear of the inevitable mob revenge.

* * * * *

Author's Title: PUNCH YOUR WAY HOME (5,200 words)

History: Completed in September 1947 and sold to Malcolm Reiss of Fiction House in September for inclusion in FIGHT STORIES.

Opening:

Slam Baker was stretched out naked on a bed in a three dollar room in a Trenton hotel and his broken fists were linked behind his head. He stared at the ceiling with a calm and happy expression and his deep chest rose and fell easily, the wind whistling only a little through the twisted cartilage of his nose.

Situation: Baker, after nine years of it, wants to take on his kid brother against the advice of his manager. He wants to clobber his brother so badly the boy will give up the business.

* * * * *

Author's Title: THAT OLD GREY TRAIN (7,000 words)

History: Completed in February 1947, sold in March to Columbia Publications for use in SPORTS FICTION. Month and title used are unknown.

Opening:

After a long, long time, they unlocked the gate for me and they let me go. I stood in the warden's office and felt the cloth of the cheap suit where my hands hung next to my thighs, and he said, "Washburn, you did your stretch like a man and I don't think you're going to get into any more trouble."

There were so many things I couldn't say to him--I couldn't tell him how my folks had wanted to educate one of the kids and sent me to Howard University, thinking they were going to have a colored boy that could make a living with the books in a white man's world. I was a junior when the dough got low, and I found a way to make some money. In those days I was lean and tough and fast. I did me some boxing, and the big trouble was, I was too good at it. If only I'd met a real good boy when I was first fighting.

Situation: Narrator, Washburn, is a Negro prizefighter just released from prison at 31 after 6 years inside. His old manager Johnny Rye takes him back on as a trainer. Joe Rye, Johnny's mean son, is coming up. Washburn clobbers him so badly he quits the ring, and Johnny throws Washburn out.

* * * * *

Author's Title: EASY-GOING MAN (8,700 words)

History: Completed in February 1949 and sold to Harry Widmer of Popular Publications for use in DIME WESTERN, probably in one of the summer months.

Opening:

They came through the pass at night, more than a dozen of them, with no sound but the muffled clop of hoof, creak of leather, chinking of metal, soft blowing of the horses from the steep pitch beyond the pass.

The low sailing moon slid out from behind a cloud and Anse, in the lead, made a hissing sound and held up his arm. The furtive noises stopped and one horse

Situation: Nick Lees, a small rancher, is burned out by Haggar along with the homesteaders, and finds himself unhappily allied with the homesteaders in fighting for survival.

* * * * *

"THE TRAP OF SOLID GOLD"

Presented on ABC Stage 67
starring Cliff Robertson and Dina Merrill

A Review by Larry Tauber

"The Trap of Solid Gold" concerns modern-day "poverty". Cliff Robertson and his real-life wife Dina Merrill star as the modern-day suburban couple who were living way beyond their means in order to keep up a good front for customers of the company for which he worked. When guests were brought home for dinner, they were to be entertained at their beautiful home or at the country club. The couple soon finds out that at the income they receive, they cannot possibly pay for their home, wardrobe, country club dues, and be able to eat too. It becomes such a problem that they don't even have enough money to pay for hospital expenses for their child. Finally, the husband decides to ask for a raise in order to continue to keep up the front. But the boss resists, promising that he will give him a bigger title and more pay soon if he can play "the game" a little longer.

There is no actual climax to this story--just a lesson in modern living. Cliff Robertson and Dina Merrill played the lead roles very well. The entire project was done in New York. It also received reviews from the critics as one of the better ABC Stage 67 productions this year. For some strange reason, though, (which ABC refused to give) it was not repeated.

From: Len and June Moffatt
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