

THE JDM BIBLIOPHILE

September 1974 #19

Edited and published by: Len & June Moffatt, Box 4456, Downey, CA 90241, U.S.A.

This is a non-profit amateur journal devoted to the works--and to the readers--of John D. MacDonald. Price: 50¢ a copy--or a publishable letter of comment will bring you the issue in which your letter appears. If there is an "X" on your mailing label you must do something to receive the next issue. Please DO NOT send more than 50¢ at a time. We do not want long-range subscriptions.

DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE: January 1, 1975

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... & EVERYTHING

As most of you know, we like to use JDM story titles for the regular features in this magazine. The title of Bill Wilson's column, "Hard Touch" is obviously a take-off on THE SOFT TOUCH. PLEASE WRITE FOR DETAILS seemed like an ideal title for our letter column, and still does.

"...& Everything" comes from THE GIRL, THE GOLD WATCH & EVERYTHING, of course. I do have the girl, my wife and co-editor, June. We don't have the Gold Watch, more's the pity, as it certainly would come in handy in the busy life we live! More on that later, but first I should tell you what this "new" column is all about. It is--you guessed!--about everything that doesn't fit into the other columns and departments. It includes the material we used to use in "News & Previews" as well as anything else we have to report or comment on, including our own editorial natterings.

Some of the material in this column will be old news to many of our readers because (1) It has been almost a year and a half since the last issue, and (2) we will be repeating a little of the information that was published in #18, as we have many new readers who missed out on getting copies of #18 as it was out of print by the time they heard about us.

The reason we have so many new readers is because John D. MacDonald took a trip. He did another publicity tour for Fawcett last year to various cities around the country, resulting in many newspaper writeups, some of which mentioned us. And new inquiries regarding JDMB began rolling in...

By now you should all know that THE SCARLET RUSE and THE TURQUOISE LAMENT are the latest McGee novels (Nos. 14 and 15) in paperback (Fawcett) and that LAMENT was first published by Lippincott as a hardcover, and that LAMENT was also an alternate choice by Book-of-the-Month Club, as well as a choice of The Detective Book Club, and one of the selections of the Book Find Club.

The 16th McGee novel, THE AZURE DISMAY, has been written and sent to John's agent. We don't know at this time whether it will be published first by Lippincott or by Fawcett. Negotiations are in process.

John says he is working on another book--not a McGee--but he doesn't want to talk about it at the moment, as that is "bad luck".

The Book-of-the-Month Club did so well with TURQUOISE that they are going to box three of the Lippincott hardcover editions (AMBER, GOLD and BROWN) and sell them in the \$15 range as an alternate choice, probably toward the end of this year.

Old but good news is that Fawcett finally reprinted THE HOUSE GUESTS as a paperback, with photos. It is somewhat autobiographical as well as being the best book on having pets that we have ever read.

All rights in the cinema McGee and the tv McGee have reverted to John. (This was as of August 11, 1973.) John is dead set against any more McGee movies. He says "Now the risk of terrible things is over". This is either good news or bad news, depending on how you felt about the first and only McGee movie (DARKER THAN AMBER) and whether or not you think anyone is capable of making movies about McGee that would be totally faithful to the books.

John also attended the American Booksellers Association Convention in Washington (June 1974) "and autographed paperback editions of THE TURQUOISE LAMENT for some long lines of friendly folks. I signed about 500, they tell me". He was Fawcett's guest, and they had a cocktail party for him in the Fawcett suite, which was well attended, filling the suite and hallway. John says he saw a lot of old friends.

We want to thank all of you who have been sending us newspaper and magazine clippings about interviews with JDM, reviews, etc. We wish we had the space to quote some of them here and make appropriate comments.

The Moffatts did some traveling last year, too. June and I were elected as TAFF delegates and went to England where we spent two weeks visiting London, Bristol and the Cheshire area, and about one week in West Germany (Frankfurt, Mannheim and Heidelberg). We attended the British National Science-Fiction Convention in Bristol, and met many new and old friends in s-f fandom. TAFF is the Trans-Atlantic Fan Fund, which was started 20 years ago to bring well-known, popular fans across the Atlantic.

TAFF has sent American delegates or representatives to England and Germany, and on alternate years has brought European representatives to the U. S. The winners become the current administrators for the Fund. Since we made our trip, we have had another TAFF campaign to bring a European sfan to the World SF Convention in Washington, D.C. this coming Labor Day weekend. The winner is Pete Weston of England, so the current administrators of TAFF are Pete, June and me.

For details on how TAFF works, and if you want to read about our trip, get a copy of THE MOFFATT HOUSE ABROAD: 1973 TAFF Trip Report, which includes a history of TAFF. We just published it--another reason for the delay in publishing this issue of JDMB--and you'll find an ad for it somewhere in this issue.

Some of our new readers weren't quite sure what JDMB was all about. Many thought it was an organized fan club as well as a fanzine type of publication (or amateur journal, if you prefer the more formal term). True, we are fans of JDM, and I suppose we could organize a JDM fan club (or, as someone once suggested, a sort of Busted Flush Irregulars), complete with membership cards, dues, the whole bit. But we feel that fan clubs of that type are a bit too worshipful--they tend to make their subject (be it an author, a fictional hero, a movie star or wotever) too much like God.

As far as I can determine, the only time that John D. is God is when he is sitting at his typewriter creating characters and plot situations. And even then he is not a true god as he doesn't do this by some supernatural or magical method--he has to work at it, do a lot of research (THE SCARLET RUSE being the best most recent example of John's painstaking research), and sometimes considerable rewriting. He sweats and bleeds at his profession just like the rest of us working buffs. We admire him because he turns out an excellent product, and respect him for his honesty and sincerity.

As we have said more than once, the JDMB is dedicated to the writings--and to the readers--of JDM. It also touches on other writers and other subjects that interest us. If we are a "fan club"--we in this instance meaning not only June and me but all of you JDM fans who read JDMB--we are the most loosely organized fan club in existence. And I think it should be kept that way. We are simply a bunch of people who list JDM as one of their all-time favorite writers. He can do wrong; he doesn't, often, but he can. If we were to organize a club, adopt a motto like "He Can Do No Wrong" and bow down and worship him or an "image" of him, I'm sure that John would find it most distasteful and embarrassing. Why, he might even sue... Fortunately, we consider him too good a friend to do that to him.

Other new readers asked about the "Moffatt House". One asked "Is it an ordinary household: mother, father, children; or is it a business? Well, one thing for sure--

it isn't a business. Publishing the JDMB, as well as publishing items like the JDM Master Checklist, The Moffatt House Abroad, a mag called Moonshine for the Fantasy Amateur Press Association, etc., etc. are all part & parcel of our hobby activities-- which also include club activities such as the Los Angeles Science Fantasy Society, the Petard Society, etc., and sometimes work on science-fiction or mystery convention committees. We also read a lot, though not as much as we'd like to, as we do tend to get over-involved in the above listed hobbies, and find that the days and nights are all too short.

Many years ago, a friend of mine, name of Wilson Tucker, wrote a series of detective novels about a private eye named Charlie Horne. Tucker was--and is--a science-fiction fan and s-f writer, and he used the names of many of his friends for characters in the various stories. The fictional characters themselves did not represent the real-life people for whom they were named, but we all had fun reading a Tucker novel (not only because he is an excellent and entertaining writer) but looking for the names of people we know, primarily those from the science-fiction field or s-f fandom. In one of these novels, the murder took place in a flea-bag hotel called The Moffatt House. Tucker sent me a signed copy in which he had inscribed: "May your stay in the House be not so fatal". Ever since then, every house I have lived in (rented or bought) has been called "The Moffatt House". And, eventually, the name wound up as a "publishing house" name for our various amateur publications.

As for the family: June and I have both been married before. I have never--to the best of my knowledge--been a father. I am a stepfather, as June had three children during her first marriage. The two eldest--Bob and Cathy--live away from home, grown up and doing well on their own. The youngest--18-year-old Jay--lives in the trailer (Britons read "caravan") in our back yard, and boards with us. I suspect he will be moving out on his own ere long too.

As some folk tend to think of pets as part of one's family (I certainly did with a dog that we had for 17 years, and I'm sure June would say the same about the cats and dogs she has owned--or been owned by) I should mention our cats. We don't really think of them as part of the family, as they are "outside" cats and not too friendly. It started with Rotten.

When we moved into this version of the Moffatt House, we found this scroungy old dirty-white tomcat hanging around as though he Belonged here. He wanted to come inside, but we wouldn't let him due to June's allergy. She loves cats, but is allergic to cat fur. Our neighbors informed us that the cat's name was Snowpuff, f'gawdsake, and that he belonged to the previous owner of the house, a lady who had moved to an apartment where pets were not permitted.

She had told the neighbors to ask us if we would take over the tom as she didn't have the heart to take him to the pound. We decided that having a cat around--as long as he stayed outside--wouldn't be too much of a hardship. I re-named him Tattle-Tale Grey; he may have been a pretty little Snowpuff when he was a kitten, but he sure as hell isn't now. Not that it mattered, as--like most cats--he doesn't answer to anything except sounds connected with Food.

Later, a friend of ours re-named him Slushpuff, which is also quite accurate, if you've ever seen dirty snow or slush. But, ultimately, June named him Rotten (Rotten Cat being the Full Title). Presently, a small tabby appeared on the scene. She was--and is--really wild. She's been eating our food for nearly two years, and we can't get within three feet of her. Naturally she produced a pair of kittens, who are just as wild as she is. So much for our so-called pets. We live in more or less peaceful coexistence with them. I don't think that they think of us as their property--merely providers of food, which of course--from their viewpoint--is their "natural" right as some of the world's most totally "independent" felines.

1973 was a banner year for me in more ways than one. Besides the trip overseas, the influx of new JDMB readers, etc., I also had the surprise of my life on the occasion of my 50th birthday. June had arranged it months in advance. On the pretext of going out to one of our favorite restaurants with my sister and brother-in-law to celebrate my birthday, she got me to the restaurant where I was royally surprised by 30-plus of our friends, a banquet, no less.

A banquet that was also a Roast, as several of these good old buddies stood up and told the Truth about Len Moffatt. I laughed until I cried, and then took my turn at roasting them as best I could, having nothing prepared in advance as they did.

Then there were the three birthday cakes and all of the presents which--aside from several nice books and articles of clothing--included several bottles of Chivas Regal. (Apparently my friends believe in one of my mottos: "When you're out of Chivas you're out of scotch".) And a gold (for 50 years) colored bottle of correction fluid or "corflu" as we call it in s-f fandom publishing circles. (It's used to correct errors on stencils.)

What was that other question? Is it an ordinary household? Well, part of that has been answered, but I suspect that some of you might be slightly shocked upon your first visit to Moffatt House. June and I both work five days a week. She's secretary to the maintenance manager of a grocery chain, and I'm a sales correspondent for a paper box factory. So our housekeeping isn't quite as neat as it might be if one of us stayed home every day.

We are not collectors (except for having acquired a pretty comprehensive collection of JDM items, and my penchant for collecting various editions of Gulliver's Travels) but we are accumulators. So the house is full of books, magazines, papers, and when there's a publishing project in process it is sometimes difficult to walk from one end of a room to the other without carefully skirting or stumbling over stacks of paper or wotever. We aren't exactly organized, but most of the time we know where everything is. Not always, but most of the time.

So much for Moffatt House and the dwellers therein. If there are any more questions we'll try to answer them next time. We'd best stop here, lest you think we have forgotten that this is, after all, the JDM BIBLIOPHILE, and not the Moffatt House Newsletter or some such.

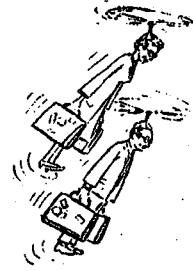
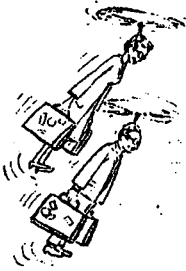
We would like to repeat something we said last issue. We could publish a single sheet once or twice a year, with whatever news we have from John, plus additions and corrections to the Checklist, and let it go at that. As it is, we expect to publish annually with each issue featuring the departments and columns and articles that you all help to provide. We have considered folding JDMB after the 20th issue (a nice round number) and going the newsheet route once or twice a year. The rising cost of postage and paper, etc., may force us to do this, but we will do our best to keep it going as a real magazine, once a year, if we continue to get enough printable material from you all, and if we can continue to afford the cost.

We do not want to raise the price per copy, and we'd still rather get printable articles, letters, etc. than the money. We still do not want long-range subscriptions, as it makes more bookkeeping work for us--remember, this is supposed to be a hobby. The fun part is editing and writing and seeing it all grow into a magazine. The "idiot work" of collating, stapling, addressing, stamping and mailing is something we do because it has to be done. Every hobby has its drawbacks, I guess.

Write if you get worked up.

- ljm

The MOFFATT HOUSE ABROAD



The 1973 Trans-Atlantic Fan Fund Trip Report by Len & June Moffatt

(plus a brief history of TAFF)

Illustrated with photographs by the authors and by Mervyn Barrett

Cartoons by Arthur Thomson and Terry Jeeves

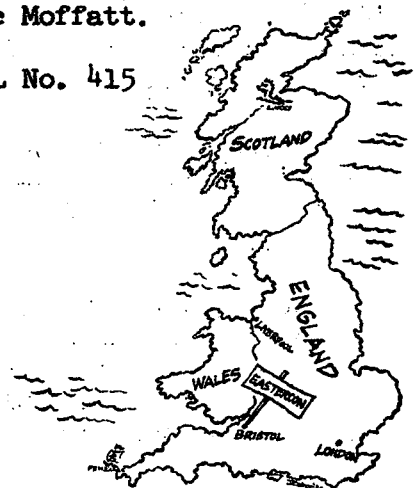
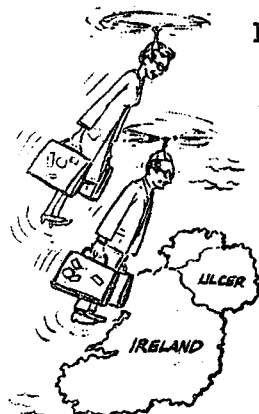
Captions for the Jeeves cartoons by: Anonymous, Charles Burbee,
Ed Cox, Dean Grennell, Dave
Locke and June Moffatt.

Back cover by Bernie Zuber, reprinted from APA L No. 415

A Moffatt House Publication

\$2 per copy

Moffatt House
Box 4456
Downey, CA 90241



Early JDM:

IN DOC SAVAGE

by Mike Nevins

According to the JDM MASTER CHECKLIST, DOC SAVAGE MAGAZINE published a total of twenty stories by JDM, under his own name and four pseudonyms, during the last two years of its existence. I don't think any of these have been reprinted, so a look at a few of the earliest of the SAVAGE stories may be of interest.

Protagonist of THE DRY MOUTH OF DANGER (August 1946) is Sam Wheeler, an American oil company employee in Ceylon who resigns rather than return to the States which hold too many bad memories for him. While on a binge, he is picked up by a certain Fernando de Silva and offered a goodly sum for picking up a packet at the Talimannor dock from a man arriving on the boat from India.

When the new arrival is murdered during the pick-up, Sam realizes that he has been set up for the fall guy, and runs for his life. Thanks to some very lucky breaks, he succeeds in clearing himself by tracking down the villains on his own.

If this all sounds like a bad 1940's Hollywood movie, JDM knows it too, which is why he has Wheeler point the fact out several times during the story. At the fadeout, Sam wonders how long it will be before another adventure will "bring back that thudding pulse of excitement, the dry mouth of danger".

JUSTICE IN THE SUN (October 1946) is almost the same story as DRY MOUTH but is set in Delhi, India rather than Ceylon. Narrator Howard Conley has a minor run-in with spoiled young millionaire Carter Noblis Jr. one afternoon, and that same evening is framed for the murder of one of Noblis's business associates.

Our hero breaks jail, kidnaps Noblis, takes him out to the desert and deprives him of water until he signs a full confession. Later, however, he tells us that "I hadn't realized that my scrap of paper wouldn't be worth a thing if Junior claimed that I had tortured it out of him." Bright boy. Luckily a sympathetic Army doctor takes Howard off the hook and all ends well unless you're a civil libertarian.

India is again the scene in THE STARTLED FACE OF DEATH (November 1946, by "Scott O'Hara"). World War II being over, insurance detective Stan Carwell is sent to track down a necklace that vanished before the war began, and to find out why two previous investigators have died on the same quest.

A pair of scorpions inserted into his luggage in the New Delhi night satisfy him that he's getting too close to the answers. The solution is largely guesswork, but there is detection of sorts, and the Oriental atmosphere is thick and steamy and authentic.

Two other JDM tales appeared in the same issue of DOC SAVAGE--"The Little People" under JDM's own name, and "The Scarred Hand" by "John Wade Farrell"--but the India story strikes me as the best of the trio, and as an excellent choice to represent this aspect of JDM's early pulp work in case anyone sees fit to publish a representative collection of the Forties tales.

HARD TOUCH

- by Bill Wilson

In the latest McGee episode, Travis and Meyer nearly lose their docking space due to a new city ordinance which is another sign of the times.

If ever we reach the ultimate in a police state or government of big brother, it will be through the good offices of the lawmakers and the do-gooders, and not through the police seizing power unto themselves as many seem to fear.

At the present time, many of the modern police departments are trying to get out from enforcing the so-called "victimless crimes", e.g. gambling and prostitution, in order to concentrate on crimes against persons and property. However, at the very same time, moves are afoot to pass even more laws to keep people safe from themselves or for "their own good". One prime example is the trend toward seat-belt laws, which only add one more potential offense to the books. While there is no denying that seat belts are a good idea insofar as safety goes, the notion that one can be cited for not being belted up smacks of 1984.

Another example is the new law regarding vitamins. Big Brother says that too many vitamins can be harmful, so you can't have certain dosages any more unless an M.D. prescribes them. Seems that you can possibly overdose with vitamins A and D. And besides, there is a question as to the usefulness of Vitamin E, and some controversy as to the real effectiveness of the others. So Big Brother steps in to protect us from ourselves.

Why not start a movement to abolish razor blades? After all, every day people cut themselves while shaving, and they are used as weapons for cutting others or committing suicide. Make everyone use electric shavers. Naturally, to make it effective, there would have to be a law passed and enforced. One commentator has even remarked wryly that all this Big Brothering could lead to a law requiring we all use ground meat because every year people die from chunks of meat which catch in their throats.

After all, the police are only an agency of government, and a good or bad department is a reflection of the government which controls it. Even in Nazi Germany and Fascist Italy, the police enforced the laws that the government wanted enforced. As a matter of fact, the much-feared SS and Gestapo were special agencies created by the Nazi-controlled government and were cordially hated by the rank-and-file police of Germany.

The basic idea of the law is to protect persons and their property from the lawless acts of other persons. Not to protect you from yourself. A person ought to be able to do with himself and his property as he sees fit, just so long as he doesn't infringe on the rights of others or create a public nuisance. Yet today we are seeing a marked trend to put all of us into a conforming mass of sheep. Of course the Big Brothers are exempt because they are different.

So how much longer will they tolerate the likes of a McGee--or people who think as he does?

Some Recommendations:

FOR THE 36th WORLD SCIENCE FICTION CONVENTION IN 1978

VOTE FOR LOS ANGELES!

THE L. A. IN '78 WORLDCON BIDDING COMMITTEE:

Chair: Len & June Moffatt.

Treasurer: Bruce Pelz

Hotel Liaison, Programming, Advertising: Milt Stevens & Craig Miller

V V

ELEMENTARY, MY DEAR APA (DAPA-EM) is an amateur press association for fans of mystery fiction, be they young or old, well-read or beginners, who wish to communicate by an exchange of fanzines. For details, write to: Donna Balopole, 80-27 254th Street, Floral Park, NY 11004.

V V

R E C O M M E N D E D R E A D I N G

The following publications are recommended to our readers. We have not listed prices and publishing schedules, as they may have changed by the time you read this, thanks to the increasing costs of postage, publishing materials, etc.

We suggest that you write directly to the publishers for this information.

THE ARMCHAIR DETECTIVE: Allen J. Hubin, 3656 Midland, White Bear Lake, MN 55110

DAST MAGAZINE: Iwan Hedman, Flodins vag 5, S 152 00, Strangnas, SWEDEN

AUTHOR INDEX TO DOC SAVAGE MAGAZINE; THE FAUST COLLECTOR; THE FRANK GRUBER INDEX:
William J. Clark, 11744 1/2 Gateway Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90064

THE ELLERY QUEEN REVIEW: Rev. Robert E. Washer, 82 E. 8th St., Oneida Castle, NY 13421

THE MYSTERY READER'S NEWSLETTER: Lianne Carlin, PO Box 113, Melrose, MA 02176

THE MYSTERY TRADER: Ethel Lindsay, 6 Langley Avenue, Surbiton, Surrey, KT6 6QL,
GREAT BRITAIN

THE ROHMER REVIEW: Robert E. Briney, 4 Forest Avenue, Salem, MA 01970

V V

THE JDM MASTER CHECKLIST

\$1.00 per copy

A bibliography of the works of John D. MacDonald, covering stories and articles in magazines, paperbacks and hardcovers. Cross-indexed. It also features a photo and a brief biography of Mr. MacDonald.

(Just a few copies left at this writing)

Please Write For Details

GEORGE R. BERRYMAN, St. Augustine, FL: I have just read the new Travis McGee (#14) THE SCARLET RUSE, and am happy to report that it is superior to some of the more recent ones, with fresh plot twists, and the avoidance of some of the philosophy which was approaching the cliché. I wish, though, that some more astute reader would point out to me where it is explained why McGee did not collect his fee, which he more thoroughly earned in this adventure than in any previous one.

I now own all the MacD. fiction books except WEEP FOR ME, which I have not been able to run down. I was able to find THE HOUSE GUESTS (non-fiction) in the local library, and I must warn all fans against reading it lest they be disillusioned with the image they have of the Master. ((The Master? But what has THE HOUSE GUESTS to do with Sherlock Holmes? -jmm))

This work relates the MacDonald love for house pets, mainly cats, and it reflects a tolerant regard for those who torment other animals. The highest affection, however, is given to cats (or dogs) which bite or frighten human visitors or passersby without provocation. Meyer, I feel, would not approve, and McGee has given no indication that he would either.

((Your interpretation of what John has to say in THE HOUSE GUESTS coggles us! We suspect you are overreacting to his practical approach to pet raising. Like the man said, it "is not a luvvums-duvvums-itsyboo book about pooty-tats". -ljm))

FRED BLOSSER, Dunbar, West Virginia: JDMB 18 made, as usual, very interesting reading. Give Mr. Nevins a rousing hand for his continuing series on Mr. MacDonald's early pulp work. Very informative for this JDM fan who has read very, very little of Mr. MacDonald's work for DIME DETECTIVE, et al.

I still nurse the hope that someday, somehow, JDM will bring out a hefty collection of the best of his early action-detective stories.

I'm eagerly awaiting THE SCARLET RUSE. The last three or four McGees have fallen somewhat short of the standard set by DEEP BLUE, PURPLE PLACE and DEADLY GOLD, but the series still remains the most readable one around. I've noticed that Ed McBain, Richard Stark and Donald Hamilton have also exhibited a comparable loss of steam in their recent books. Hamilton especially. The last two Matt Helms were crashing bores. I don't think the colorful Mr. McGee has slipped quite that much.

The DEADLY SHADE OF GOLD teevee-movie mentioned in JDMB 17 was apparently intended as a pilot for a McGee teevee series starring George Peppard. Peppard stated in a TV GUIDE interview a couple of months ago that he was offered a choice between a McGee series and "Banacek". He chose, of course, the slick, banal "Banacek" which, I believe, has already been canceled. So, does anyone know how DEADLY GOLD now stands, filmwise?

As for Pete Jarrett's comments on JDM and the "literary establishment", some recent titles by the so-called elite would include Philip Roth's THE GREAT AMERICAN NOVEL, James Jones' A TOUCH OF DANGER, and Erich Segal's FAIRY TALE. Would anyone seriously consider these to be good books, better than Mr. MacDonald's thoughtful, cautionary novels? I should hope not. ((To borrow a line from the Limelickers--"Dreadful partisanship, there!" -jmm))

RICHARD C. BOYD, Holmdel, NJ: Hope the trip to England is a delight. I've loved my trips there, including visits to my favorite British pub-- the Sherlock Holmes!

((The trip was indeed a delight, but not long enough. We did visit the Sherlock Holmes Pub, and recommend it to all Holmes buffs. Someone took great and loving care in preparing the displays of artifacts--and the drinks aren't bad either! -ljm))

ROBERT E. BRINEY, Salem, MA: At first glance, I was glad to see an article on Charles Williams, even though he is far from being "a second John D." But it is fortunate that I was already familiar with Williams's suspense paperbacks; I certainly wouldn't have been attracted to them by Mr. Carter's article. Anyone so

ill-informed as to dismiss "the other Charles Williams" as merely "a rather prolific writer of religious novels (egad!)" has nothing to say that would interest me...

KNOX BURGER, New York NY: I was pleased to get your JDM Bibliophile #18. David Stewart's satirical copy for upcoming McGee covers took me back to the days when a young associate editor and I concocted the copy for the first three McGee books at Fawcett. We had to (and indeed, I wanted to) clear every word with John, and I thought the copy came out very well. Patricia Johnson, now a successful author of all sorts of horse books, did most of the jacket copy for the first six books. Is the copy better now, or worse? Is David Stewart a better poet than he is a satirist?

I was also glad to see the tribute to Charlie Williams, many of whose books I published at Dell and at Fawcett. Someone ought to do a serious study of how Williams gets his effects, compared to how MacDonald gets his.

In case anyone wonders what John D. thought of New Zealand, he told me he certainly wouldn't want to live there and it was a Godawful place to visit.

J. M. CARTER, New York, NY: Thought #18 was quite good, especially the pieces by Stewart and by Nevins. Hope Nevins continues his brief summaries of the stories. Recently completed my JDM collection with WEEP FOR ME--in good shape, too! Has anyone ever asked John D. why he never bothered to turn SUSPICION ISLAND into a full-fledged novel, as he did with so many of his other Cosmopolitan stories? It's one of his best, I think.

Have seen MAN TRAP (Soft Touch) on TV several times recently. With the late Jeff Hunter--and David Janssen. Not-so-hotso! Aside from this one, CAPE FEAR (The Executioners) and DARKER THAN AMBER--plus some written-for-TV thing I have yet to see, is there anything else anyone knows of that has been made into a movie from John D's work? Would like to know about them.

Read SCARLET RUSE last week. (He just gets better and better!) It's deservedly on the best-seller lists... Maybe we'll get OPPS! next? Hope they change the title! (If he is using that old-fashioned word meaning "I blew it" he is misspelling it. It's "oops"--as in Alley Oop.)

As to Williams, I got a number of letters, one from Williams' agent telling me he'll have a new one out late in September entitled MAN ON A LEASH, from Putnam. Also, Pocket Books has brought out STAIN OF SUSPICION, BIG BITE and SAILCLOTH SHROUD, giving them six in print in their current series. If I may be permitted one correction, NUDE ON THIN ICE was NOT written by CW and should be deleted from the list. (Thank the NYTimes for that one.) As to movies--from-books for CW, he's had several: THE THIRD VOICE (All The Way) with Edmund O'Brien is a real corker! Try to catch it on TV. WRONG VENUS with Robert Wagner, and BANANA PEEL (Nothing In Her Way) with Jean-Paul Belmondo--made in France.

((I believe that KONA COAST (with Richard Boone) was supposed to be based on a JDM story. It now shows up on TV occasionally, but is far from being as good as CAPE FEAR or even the movie version of AMBER. CRY HARD, CRY FAST was done as a two-parter on the RUN FOR YOUR LIFE series. It used the basic story situation and some of the characters, but naturally the protagonist was changed to the series hero, and motivations of other characters were changed too, as I recall. Still better than one might expect from such an adaptation. THE DROWNER has been done on TV more than once. The Hitchcock show did a short version, and it was done again on a longer show, I think.

OPPS is a misspelling of OOPS--see News & Previews in JDMB #17 for details.

- ljm))

Hello again. Following up on my recent letter. Thought you might have some interest in the attached clipping from the NYTimes Book Review for Sept. 30. Yes, it concerns Williams, but I'm sending it to you because of the interesting comment made by the reviewer. (I'm not the only one who sees similarities between JDM and CW!)

((The clipping enclosed with this note was from the Criminals At Large column by "Newgate Callendar", which reviewed MAN ON A LEASH by Charles Williams. Callendar ends his review by saying that "Travis McGee may have to move over and make room for Eric Romstead", the latter being the tough hero of MOAL. I wonder if Tony

Boucher or Al Hubin would have said this? I suspect that Tony would not have suggested that either character move over to make room for the other, figuring there was room in the field for two--or even more--interesting protagonists! - ljm))

ALLAN L. KAMEROW, Alexandria, VA: The list of 55 novels failed to include CANCEL ALL OUR VOWS, a 1953 yarn by JDM republished by Fawcett in 1972. It's available. The new McGee, THE SCARLET RUSE, released in July, should be added, of course. Incidentally, SCARLET is a good one, and a must for stamp collectors. My philatelist friends tell me JDM really did his homework on Philately.

With the acquisition of SLAM THE BIG DOOR, which I am writing Fawcett for, I will have all 57 JDM novels listed. If there are any others, please publish names and publishers.

Three cheers for J. M. Carter's story on Charles Williams. I agree that CW and JDM are so very close in their literary style - it's uncanny! But Charles Williams' books are tough to find. Fawcett could make a bundle by republishing some Charles Williams oldies. Anyone who has read the very popular AGROUND and DEAD CALM will grab anything written by Charles Williams.

((See THE JDM MASTER CHECKLIST and the "Additions and Corrections" to same, and you will see that we are fairly well up to date on all of JDM's published works. -ljm))

MARVIN LACHMAN, Bronx, NY: I've been working, along with others, on THE ENCYCLOPEDIA OF MYSTERY AND DETECTION which McGraw-Hill expects to publish in 1975. I chose for 2 of my articles JDM and Travis McGee, including a checklist of JDM's books about the latter.

Looking forward to going up to Bouchercon IV next month. Any chance of seeing you there? I hope so.

((We regretfully missed Bouchercon IV, but expect to attend Bouchercon V, which is to be in the San Francisco area. See Bouchercon V ad, this issue. - ljm))

JOHN C. IRWIN, 6181 Lenore Avenue, Garden Grove, CA 92645: Do you have any idea where I can acquire Matthew Bruccoli's A CHECKLIST: KENNETH MILLAR/ROSS MACDONALD? Thanks for any help.

JEAN LINARD, Vesoul, France: I prefer to pass on all attempts to comment on Dave Stewart's piece on pp. 5-8. On page 8 I also read "maitresse d'" (in a Mexican restaurant) and I wonder what that can be? Is this supposed to come from the French? Really, I just wonder if the man is kidding someone all along. ((This sort of usage may be referred to as "Fractured French"--borrowing and changing words to fit a given situation. Stewart could have said "hostess" just as easily, but perhaps the other phrase sounded more elegant. Or something. I think I've heard of the French borrowing words/phrases from English, too, so it works both ways. - jmm))

The Grennell article, in Grennellese, is bright. Of course. I share his apprehensions about any Canada settings in stories--or in anything else, for that matter. I'm often wrong; nevertheless the thought has always persisted in me. And yet, I might say, I'm situated rather afar from the stuff. I've a question about English-speaking Canadians: do they use a much different English from, say, regular American English? ((In my experience, I've found that British Columbians seem to speak something closer to British English than American English. - jmm))

Another question, on page 11: How does one pronounce "ecch!?" Is it "Ekk" or "Eksh" or "Esh" or what? This, I never knew. (("Ekk" is the closest of your three choices. However, the "ch" takes the guttural German sound, as "ecch" is an exclamation of disgust or revulsion, and may also be written "Yukh" or "Yikh". - jmm))

Mrs. Stevenson gets somewhat yummy with her mention of that RAYMOND CHANDLER SPEAKING. Is that book available? Where are located those editors Gardiner & Walker? And the Helga Greene Literary Agency? And do you happen to know who are Josephine Tey and Michael Innes she mentions, saying Chandler liked them? Authors? I'd appreciate any information on this. ((Those of you with answers to Jean's questions may correspond with him directly. 24 Rue Petit, 70000 Vesoul, France - jmm))

FRANCIS M. NEVINS, Jr., St. Louis, MO: If your readers haven't yet gotten tired of the subject, I'd like to return to my controversy with Bill Wilson. Obviously, when he accuses the libertarian courts of "judicial arrogance", failure to adhere to the "real intent" of the Constitution, "making" rather than "deciding" law, "usurpation of power" and "setting up standards made of straw" he's doing nothing more notable than metaphorically smacking decisions he doesn't like with JDM's famous Bullshit stamp. So he says BOO where I say YAY, and vice versa, and that's the end of it. Almost. However, I would like to make sure he and your readers understand a few points.

(1) The Wade Decision Wilson mentions was an extremely complex one, combining five intertwined legal issues. One of the major issues did, as he says, come out 5-4; but the four dissenters on that issue were the liberals! Justices Black, Fortas, Warren and Douglas would have gone all the way and held that the very act of making a suspect take part in a line-up violated the Fifth Amendment privilege against self-incrimination. The majority did not go that far and merely required the presence of defense counsel at the line-up. Wilson and I are fighting over decisions that went 5-4 for the liberals, and clearly the only important 5-4 issue in Wade did not.

(2) A legal judgment has to be regarded as final at some ascertainable point. The Supreme Court was actually quite orthodox and moderate in holding that the Miranda rule applied only to cases that had not become finalized as of the date of the Miranda decision. Wilson would have preferred that any confession obtained prior to Miranda be admissible; others would have liked Miranda to have been 100% retroactive, invalidating all convictions where the defendant confessed without being informed of his rights. The court wisely adopted a middle-of-the-road approach.

(3) No court in this country has ever considered adherence to precedent to be an absolute. Courts have periodically overruled their own prior decisions in every area of law. Wilson is perfectly free not to like particular exercises of the power to overrule, such as those of the Warren Court, but when he suggests that the power itself is somehow a Warren innovation and usurpation, he is both misled and misleading.

(4) When Chief Justice Hughes said that "the Constitution is what the judges say it is", he was not attributing a boundless and arbitrary power to the Supreme Court. He meant no more than a sports fan would mean by saying that in baseball the score is what the umpire says it is. The umpire is the official empowered by the rules of the game to call a player out or safe, etc., but this certainly doesn't give him the power to, say, stop a no-hitter in mid-game and announce "Yanks win, 6-2. The score is what I say it is!" And neither does any court have the analogous power. This is not even remotely similar to what the Warren Court has done, Bill Wilson and his "consensus" notwithstanding.

And of course it doesn't matter which, if either, of us JDM goes along with, as both Wilson and I agree. (At last we agree on something!) So may I suggest that we call a halt to the squabbles and get back to the original and proper subject of this journal? ((A man convinced against his will / Is of the same opinion still. - jmm))

MEMO: To Mr. John D. MacDonald, via THE JDM BIBLIOPHILE
From Bruce Pelz, Founder, The Society of Gimlet-Eye Snobs
Subject: THE SCARLET RUSE, p. 49, Paragraph 1

If Meyer can write an essay, in his head, on Argentine inflation under Allende, his head needs some cleaning out and/or rewiring. Allende governs Chile, not Argentina.

N.B.: This should not be used to assume that the undersigned did not enjoy the book, since he definitely did.

Bruce E. Pelz
6 August 1973

BRUCE ROBBINS, Montreal, Canada: As of late 1972, Plymouth Gin no longer exists (at least in Canada). This English gin, established in 1793, has changed its name to Black Friar Gin. The crew-cut monk on the label has been replaced by a balding friar, but both hold a glass of gin and have happy looks.

((And for a while there, we thought there might be a shortage of Dos Equis when we heard that the Mexican brewery had been destroyed in an earthquake. But we are still able to buy it in certain local markets, so apparently the brewery is still in operation. - ljm)) ((Has anyone noticed that Gus Arriola has Gordo setting out Dos Equis to trap the snails in his comic strip? - jmm))

LARRY SMITH, Torrance, CA: I would like to respond to J. M. Carter, both to his article, "A Second John D." and his letter in PWFd. First, I have six books by Charles Williams and I agree with Mr. Carter that Williams writes a very good book (meaning I have read them at least twice). As to his being as good as or "superior" to John D., that is a matter of personal opinion. I do know that I have tried in vain to obtain other "out-of-date" books by Mr. Williams and would not hesitate to recommend him to any individual who enjoys reading John D. I look forward to this "fourth book" to be brought out by Pocket Books, and just hope it isn't one I already have.

Second, regarding Mr. Carter's suggestion on pressing Fawcett Publications to bring out some of John's short stories in book form, I am all for it. Since I was unaware, until I received the checklist last week, that he had written any that were not in a book, I am understandably eager to locate and read any I can.

In closing, I would like to express my admiration for such a well-written publication, the JDMB. It is equal to any professional magazine on the market today for contents of enjoyable reading and special interest information. I especially enjoy your humor, both in the news and previews and the comments in parentheses in PWFd.

Thank you.

((Thank you, sir! - ljm & jmm))

MRS. HARRIET N. STEVENSON, West Linn, OR: I paid \$1.25 for THE SCARLET RUSE. I just checked. DEEP BLUE GOOD-BY and NIGHTMARE IN PINK cost 40 cents each. That was 12 years ago. The question is: has the quality of the writing improved? Or is it the price of paper and printing? Or the salaries of the editors? Or perhaps the living style of the author? I'm willing to pay the difference as long as JDM keeps the Busted Flush operating, keeps Meyer alive, or vice versa, and keeps writing good prose.

((It is probably the price of paper and printing. - ljm))

On page 109, Travis describes the clubhouse of the Royal Biscayne Yacht Club. He says it looks like a wedding cake for the Arabian bride of a suitor from Stonehenge. I wonder if he knows...there is a replica of Stonehenge in the State of Washington. It was built in the late 1920's by James Hill as a memorial to World War I soldiers. It overlooks the Columbia River, unfortunately now clogged by dams. ((Yes, we read about the Stonehenge replica recently. That's one more thing to put on our must-see list when we make a northern trip. - jmm))

DAWN THOMSEN, St. Joseph, Michigan: When my husband and I were visiting my parents in Venice, Florida, this past March, I was surprised and pleased to see a picture of Mr. MacDonald with a Heathkit trail bike in the Sunday Sarasota newspaper. He had built the motorized bike from a kit and had donated it to a local charitable auction for sale. It was a double pleasure for me, because my husband is a design engineer for the Heath Company, and we're always pleased to learn of fellow Heathkit enthusiasts.

HARRY WARNER, Jr., Hagerstown, MD: I hope you and June had a magnificent trip, with startling real-life mysteries occurring on both the eastward and westward flights, and I also have faith that you'll turn out a trip report of unparalleled length and excellence. ((See TAFF Trip Report ad on the inside back cover of this issue. - jmm))

Most of what Bill Wilson writes about prisons and imprisonment makes sense. A local judge who recently retired said one day that after a couple of decades on the bench, and a lot of years before that as an attorney, he was convinced that imprisonment accomplishes only one thing: it prevents the prisoner from bothering honest people for a while.

It's probably an oversimplification, but I suspect that most of the rehabilitation efforts in prison are doomed to failure. One problem about the system that Bill proposes: as a practical procedure, there would be very little business for the facilities he suggests for first convictions. Except in the most serious crimes, the first offense usually means nothing worse than a suspended sentence and surveillance by a parole officer plus restitution if that's possible. The trouble is, those who go to prison for the first time are usually veterans of a series of brushes with the law, starting as juveniles. Most of them are tough and knowing already about crime and criminals. Of course, there should be some kind of separate facilities for the rare person who gets a sentence for something serious after reaching adulthood with a good record.

It's fascinating to try to figure out what those future JDM books will be like, on the basis of these blurbs. Maybe someday, this will become a special subdivision of mystery fandom: those who never read the books but just the blurbs and then construct for themselves mentally the entire book on those few distorted clues, just as archeologists imagine what a prehistoric village was like from a few fragments of artifacts they've excavated. ((Would that be anything like the old joke about giving someone a set of bookends, because the end of the book is all they read? - jmm))

I suspect there's one main reason why the literary upper crust prefers to discuss books about the psychological aspects of the characters. There's a built-in guarantee that nobody can ever be proved wrong, and that the reviews of reviews can breed an infinite number of future generations. If the university people discussed a writer's accuracy of observation or the probable life of each of his novels or similar matters, it wouldn't take long to settle such questions, and then the professors would be forced to sit down and read a lot of other books so they could start discussing other matters. It is something like the astrologers who never name dates and places when and where certain things will happen to a given person, or the fact that the Pope is considered fallible in temporal matters but infallible in the spiritual field.

My eyeballs extruded substantially when they arrived at one routine-appearing spot in your Seek & Swap column. You dropped the name and address of Jean Linard as calmly as if it weren't one of the most sensational of all the remarkable resurrections of long-gangnated people. Oddly, I'd just written something about him in my All Our Yesterdays column for the Katzes' new fanzine whose title always keeps slipping out of memory. I see he's still living in Vesoul, and even the street address sounds familiar.

It's a terrible thing to confess, but sheer selfishness makes me hope that JDM won't increase his writing output for a few more years. I'm reading his books faster than he's writing them. This is a situation to be treasured because in almost every other field of interest, I'm falling further behind all the time. It's quite obvious that I'll not live long enough to see all the movies I've missed or catch up on reading the prozines or find recordings of all the Donizetti operas. So he's one precious situation where there's really hope for me: I could quite possibly enjoy all the good things in the generally available fiction of JDM, if I should survive until approaching or reaching the three-score-and-ten area. If JDM suddenly begins to write and sell two million words per year again, there goes my last chance of savoring all available delights of one particular breed in this existence.

I've even read A TAN AND SANDY SILENCE already. I liked it more than the other McGee books I've read, which I generally think inferior to the non-series novels. Maybe it's because McGee is having all those self-doubts and intimations of mortality.

BILL WILSON, Douglasville, GA: I had meant to call this to your attention before: There is another writer, John M. Macdonald, but fortunately he doesn't write fiction. His technical books are considered to be outstanding in the field.

The Murderer and His Victim	1961
Homicidal Threats	1968
Psychiatry and the Criminal	1969
Rape	1971
Indecent Exposure	1973

All of his books are published by Charles C. Thomas.

SEEK & SWAP

FRED BLOSSER, 100-A 22nd St., Dunbar, West Virginia 25064, is interested in buying either the July 1949 issue of BLACK MASK featuring JDM's "Heritage of Hate", or the April 1954 ELLERY QUEEN MYSTERY MAGAZINE with "Triple Cross". He has a 1960 copy of "On The Make" (aka "Bullet For Cinderella") from Dell for sale by bid, or trade for a JDM pulp.

J. CARTER, 201 E. 66th St., New York NY 10021, has for sale: Complete set of JDMB (1-18) \$5.50; THE ARMCHAIR DETECTIVE Vol. 6 (1-4) \$3.50; THE MYSTERY READER'S NEWSLETTER Vol. 5 \$2.50. Wanted: THE DIAMOND BIKINI by Charles Williams, in paperback.

JOHN CHEESBOROUGH, 4 Busbee Rd., Asheville, NC 28803, has a large collection of ADVENTURE (pulp mag from 20's to 40's) for sale or swap.

DONALD F. GLAZE, P. O. Box 908, Morro Bay, CA 93442 wants to buy copies of I COULD GO ON SINGING and WEEP FOR ME.

ADRIAN HOMER GOLDSTONE, 35 Lee St., Mill Valley, CA 94941, needs copies (original or photocopies) of JDMB Nos. 1 through 10, and Nos. 17 & 18. Will buy. Collection will ultimately go to Ellery Queen Collection at University of Texas.

JEAN LINARD, 24 Rue Petit, 70000 Vesoul, FRANCE, needs THE GIRL IN THE PLAIN BROWN WRAPPER, THE TURQUOISE LAMENT and THE SCARLET RUSE. Will buy or swap.

BRIAN N. WINN, P. O. Box 4494, Inglewood, CA 90309, wants JDMB Nos. 1 through 10.

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ADDITIONS & CORRECTIONS TO THE JDM MASTER CHECKLIST

75. (see p. 39) Devere d'uccidere (The Drowner) #218, Garzanti (Italian) 1970 (Thanks to Bruce Robbins)
- 76-87 are German translations (see p. 38 and A&C Nos. 32-33-34) published by Wilhelm Heyne Verlag, 8 Munchen 2, Postfach 20 1204, GERMANY. (Thanks to James A. Pope)
76. Tod in der Sonne 1186
77. Gold wirft blutige Schatten 1199 (A Deadly Shade of Gold)
78. Rote Lady, Schwarz aufweiss 1215
79. Das Madchen im braunen Paket 1376 (The Girl in the Plain Brown Wrapper)
80. Das Blutrote Schweigan 1513 (1973) (A Tan and Sandy Silence)
81. Das Haus der Dreizehn 1150
82. Einmal Hille und Zuruck 1207
83. Das Champagner-Madchen 1307/1308
84. Die Leuchtenden Finger 1361
85. Viermal flackert das Licht 1389
86. Der Hippie im Indigo-Dress 1401
87. Planet der Traumer 3166 (Wine of the Dreamers, AKA Planet of the Dreamers)
88. (see p. 32) THE LONG LAVENDER LOOK (hardcover) Lippincott 1972
89. (see p. 32) BRIGHT ORANGE FOR THE SHROUD (hardcover) Lippincott 1973
90. (see p. 32) THE TURQUOISE LAMENT (tm) (Hardcover: first publication, not a reprint) Lippincott 1973
91. (see p. 32) THE SCARLET RUSE (tm) Fawcett Gold Medal 1973

Additions and Corrections to the JDM Master Checklist (continued)

92. (see p. 32) THE HOUSE GUESTS (see pp 32-35) Fawcett Gold Medal 1973
93. (see pp 15-30) "Begin Again" reprinted in LIBERTY THEN & NOW Magazine, Vol. 1 No. 11, Winter 1973
94. (see p. 18) "The Taste of Gravy" PLAYBOY, Vol. 21 No. 6, June 1974.
95. (see p. 32) THE TURQUOISE LAMENT (tm) (paperback reprint) Fawcett July 1974

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