TRADE NEWS

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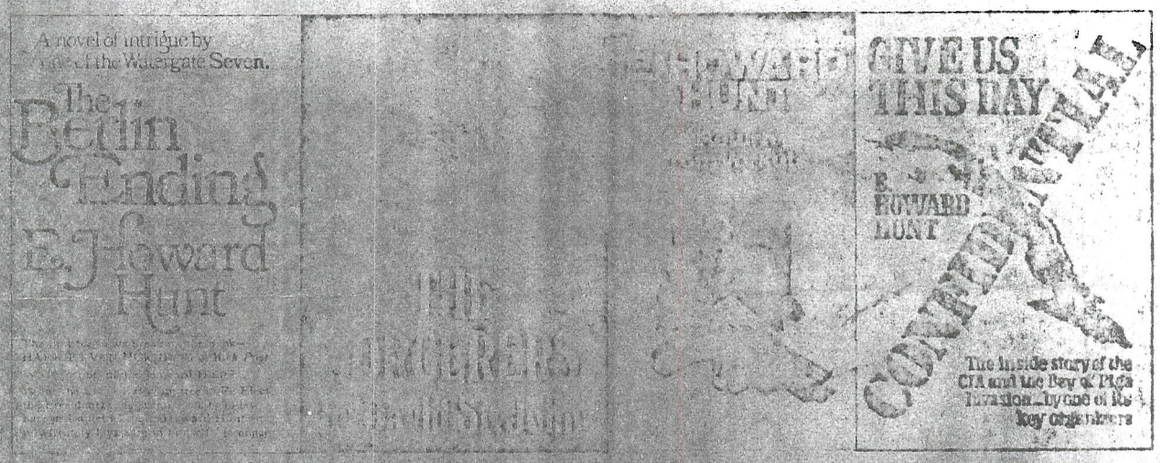
A Boost for the Backlist from E. Howard Hunt



Ex-CIA agent E. Howard Hunt, most famous for his activities as a Watergate conspirator, has a long literary career behind him: according to "Who's Who" he has published 34 books, and he now says just are and he cover.

At [illegible] time that part of his career promised to be [illegible] Hunt's "Bay of Pigs," "Lost of Kings," a 1942 account of life on a destroyer, was excellent reviews. Said the New York Times: "As the [illegible] novel, [illegible] any doubt the best sea story of the war." "Land of Darkness," published in 1944, received good if somewhat less enthusiastic notices; but when "Maelstrom" came out in 1948, the *Herald Tribune* dismissed it as "a standard thriller romance" while *Kirkus* sniffed, "Cheap mystery melodrama."

[illegible] repeatedly held free to its opinion of what "Bimini Run" appeared in 1949, the reviewer was "again in the [illegible] vein," while the *Times* now [illegible] phlegmatic, was reduced to "[illegible] interesting." Shortly after [illegible] apparently disappointed [illegible] hardcover reviewers, to [illegible] paperbacks originally [illegible] under pseudonyms [illegible] Dietrich, David [illegible] and [illegible] "Why Bother [illegible] perfection lists his real name as Dietrich, with Howard Hunt as a pseudonym. Surely this is [illegible] but [illegible] be traced to Mr. Hunt's payment for intrigue.

Lell, Fawcett, Lancer and NAL all published Hunt titles, mostly under the pseudonyms. Most [illegible] reissue the [illegible] rights [illegible] NAL will [illegible] Hunt thrillers, all [illegible] Ward, and [illegible] "Dark Corridors Dusty," "Returns from Yorkshire," "The Towers of Silence," "Festival for Spies," "The Venus Flood" and "One of Our Agents Is Missing." These will appear "as soon as NAL's schedule permits," probably early August, while Lancer will also reissue "My Body" in August: this was a Robert Dietrich novel which now, using the same cover, will feature Mr. Hunt's real name.

Fawcett is the only house which actually has current Hunts, or, more accurately, by David St. Johns. These are "The Sixth Man" and "Diabolus," both starring [illegible] Ward, and they will be joined by "The Coven" in November. All three came out first in Weybright and Talley covers, and *PW*'s reviews to them were [illegible] not [illegible] negative. Maybe these are read [illegible] this sort of thing. Fawcett also has a Gordon Ewing "Silent Murder [illegible]" which [illegible] Robert [illegible] to [illegible] the reason for this: "They were dated, not contemporary," [illegible] Donald MacCampbell, [illegible] Hunt's agent, had to say on this subject that Mr. Hunt's novels may be *politically* dated—"A lot of them have Russian Communists as the Bad Guys, and this seems sort of dated now that the Russians are our friends"—but that there [illegible] the writing. Berkley apparently concurs, for it has just acquired the rights to "Bimini Run," which it hopes to have out some time this fall.

Two new Hunt titles, both using his own name, of course, will be in bookstores shortly. The first is a novel, "The Berlin Ending" (reviewed in *PW*, June 25), which has a print order of 20,000 and is due August 28 from Putnam. The second, a nonfiction account of the Bay of Pigs fiasco and Hunt's own involvement in it, is called "Give Us This Day," and Arlington House will have it on November 7.

Mr. Hunt's future literary plans remain indefinite, though there seems to be no doubt that he will continue writing. According to Mr. MacCampbell, he doesn't want to talk about what he'll do next because there seems to be some question as to whether the Danbury prison authorities will permit him to write. Still, books have been written in prisons before, and it looks as though Mr. Hunt will have more time for the literary endeavor in the immediate future than in the immediate past.

ALICE K. TURNER

Macmillan has signed a contract with William Barry Furlong, a free-lance writer, for what is expected to be the first book on the Chicago Symphony's popular director, Georg Solti. "Season with

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