

pects of man and nature that make this novel so exciting, but it is his awareness of mysteries, which he imparts to us, that makes it so moving.

—VICTOR CHAPIN.



Wehrmacht Hardy with Heart: When a first-person journal is offered to the reader as fiction, it is natural to wonder about the author's background. Normally, it isn't cricket to go beyond the book or book jacket. But this one merely says that Michael Mott's first novel was *The Notebooks of Susan Berry* and that he lives with wife and twin daughters in London. His second novel, *Helmet and Wasps* (Houghton Mifflin, \$3.95), is a far fictional reach from this sparse personal note. For the author's "I" is a young German officer living in a requisitioned villa when the American forces begin to move north of Rome in the Second World War. Inquiry discloses that the author is an Anglo-American too young to have seen the wartime he writes about. Thus, projecting himself inside the mind of a Wehrmacht hardy is a double burden and, as it turns out at the end of this short novel, an impossible one.

Yes, there have been novels written by nonparticipants who have come to major events, military and otherwise, long years later. But it takes something akin to genius to write a *Red Badge of Courage*. And even in those empathic historical novels about ancient warriors, it has been necessary to establish a link between author and a fictional character's thought processes.

Mr. Mott's German captain is an enigma. He lives in a twilight villa, surrounded by *opera buffa* Italians. The gardener scrapes and bows like Henry Armetta. The housekeeper is delighted that her dishes are so well received by the occupying Germans. Fellow-officers click their heels. Widows and housewives in the small town pay court to the corporals and privates. Several heavy German superiors all but have Heidelberg dueling scars.

A young Italian woman falls in love with the rigid captain. At the age of nineteen she herself is given to long and terribly wise silences. An incident occurs at the villa involving several hidden Jewish children. Previously the captain has turned in an old Jewish woman. This time he helps to save the children.

The novel turns around this small incident. Although the author has written *Helmet and Wasps* with a certain elegance, the reader cannot help feeling that the writing is a substitute for interior development. But then Mr. Mott gave himself an almost impossible fiction assignment to begin with.

—HERBERT MITGANG.

SR's Check List of the Week's New Books

Anthropology

STRANGER AND FRIEND: The Way of an Anthropologist. By Hortense Powdermaker. Norton. \$6.50.

Crime, Suspense

THE BY-PASS CONTROL. By Mickey Spillane. Dutton. \$3.95.

THE WIDOWMAKER. By M. Fagyas. Doubleday. \$3.95.

Current Affairs

THE ECONOMICS OF AIR POLLUTION: A Symposium. Edited by Harold Wolozin. Norton. Hardbound, \$5. Paperback, \$2.95.

INQUEST: The Warren Commission and the Establishment of Truth. By Edward Jay Epstein. Viking. \$5.

MARTI ON THE U.S.A. By José Martí. Southern Illinois Univ. Press. \$5.95.

NEIGHBORS TAKEN FOR GRANTED: Canada and the United States. Edited by Livingston T. Merchant. Praeger. \$4.95.

THE NEW CONGRESS. By Stephen K. Bailey. St. Martin's. \$3.95.

Fiction

THE BLUE PAVILION. By William Buchan. Morrow. \$4.75.

BRING MY SONS FROM FAR. By Ralph Lynn Lowenstein. World. \$4.95.

EXIT. By George Deaux. Simon & Schuster. \$4.95.

MASTERS' CHOICE: The Best Science-Fiction Stories of All Time. Ed. by Laurence M. Janifer. Simon & Schuster. \$5.95.

THE OLIVE FIELD. By Ralph Bates. Washington Square Press. \$6.95. (Reissue.)

THE STRANGER IN THE SNOW. By Lester Goran. New American Library. \$4.95.

History

THE BATTLE OF THE LITTLE BIGHORN. By Mari Sandoz. Lippincott. \$4.50.

CLIMAX AT BUENA VISTA. By David Lavender. Lippincott. \$4.50.

THE FIERCE PAWNS. By Patrick A. Macrorry. Lippincott. \$7.95.

THE FIRE AND THE ROSE. By Sir Arthur Bryant. Doubleday. \$4.95.

1812. By Anthony Brett-James. St. Martin's. \$6.50.

HITLER'S SOCIAL REVOLUTION: Class and Status in Nazi Germany, 1933-1939. By David Schoenbaum. Doubleday. \$5.95.

THE WORLD WE HAVE LOST. By Peter Laslett. Scribners. \$5.95.

Literary Criticism, History

THE ACCENTS OF PERSUASION: Charlotte Brontë's Novels. By Robert Bernard Martin. Norton. \$6.

FROM HELL TO PARADISE: Dante and His Comedy. By Olof Lagercrantz. Washington Square Press. \$4.95.

GABRIELE D'ANNUNZIO IN FRANCE: A Study in Cultural Relations. By Giovanni Gullace. Syracuse Univ. Press. \$6.25.

INNOCENT VICTORIAN: The Satiric Poetry of Arthur Hugh Clough. By Michael Timko. Ohio Univ. Press. \$5.

MODERN OCCASIONS. Edited by Philip Rahv. Farrar, Straus & Giroux. \$6.95.

RIMBAUD. By Wallace Fowlie. Univ. of Chicago Press. \$6.50.

RIMBAUD: Complete Works, Selected Letters. Edited by Wallace Fowlie. Univ. of Chicago Press. \$12.50.

THOMAS HARDY'S PERSONAL WRITINGS: Prefaces, Literary Opinions, Reminiscences. Edited by Harold Orel. Univ. of Kansas Press. \$6.

Miscellany

ADVENTURES IN GREEK COOKERY. By Stella Kopulos and Dorothy P. Jones. World. \$4.95.

THE CHEMICAL WARFARE SERVICE: Chemicals in Combat. By Brooks E. Kleber and Dale Birdsell. Office of the Chief of



"I have news for you, soldier. You were left-handed."