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-ARNA BONTEMPS

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The Criminal Record

The Saturday Review's Guide to Detective Fiction

The Saturday Review's Guide to Detective Fiction			
Title and Author	Crime,Place, and Sleuth	Summing Up	Verdict
MURDER BUTTONED UP Paul A. Holmes (Dutton: \$2.50)	Murder of newspaper publisher in his office followed by slayings of ad mgr. and circu- lation ditto. Penetra- tive reporter solves it.	phere well handled. Hard-drinking report- er competently por- traved. Tale is fast	Fair
CHORD IN CRIMSON Dale Gallagher (Coward-Mc- Cann: \$2.50)	Girl skip-tracer hunts missing society scion in bebop niteries of N. Y. and Phila., encountering murder en route — which she solves.	emotions of various members of aristo- cratic and high-strung clan given thorough	Good
MURDER AND MYSTERY IN NEW MEXICO Erna Fergusson (Merle Armitage: \$3.50)	tual tales of killings, historic and contem- porary, in Southwest	well packed with excitement, mystery, and sharp portraits of	For aficiona- dos
NOT NEGOTIABLE Manning Coles (Crime Club: \$2.25)	gian cafe plunge in- quisitive Tommy Hambleton into dan- gerous search for mur-	violent, thrilling, knowledgeable — and	Recom- mended
DARK ABYSS Clifford Knight (Dutton: \$2.50)	gets rid of epileptic husband but has to kill	Beyond demonstrating that deep freezes are unsatisfactory as cadaver carriers this follows lines that are fairly familiar.	Below par
SAINT ERRANT Leslie Charteris (Crime Club: \$2.25)	cues, punishes, assists, or avenges nine ladies in ditto number of	Delicious, devastating, and devilish frails featured in trickily plotted tales mainly rescued from the pulps—including "Thrilling Wonder Stories."	For Saint devotees
NO TRAVELER RETURNS Amber Dean (Crime Club: \$2.25)	inn scene of three murders by used-car		_
A ROPE FOR THE BARON Anthony Norton (Duell, Sloan & Pearce: \$2.50)	nering defies warnings of death, invades sin- lister English manor.	Saint-ish sort of yarn, complete with chases, corpses, secret passages, comical cockney, and ultra-resourceful hero.	Fair
FRAMED IN GUILT Day Keene (Mill: \$2.50)	narist finds himself in tough spot over slay- ing of English girl—	Good plot, apparently authentic background, interesting characters, and rather sketchy writing. Would make good "B" picture.	able
THE CASE OF THE LITTLE DOCTOR Hilda Lewis (Random House: \$2.50)	Crippen case with all the emotional stops	Shows what a first-class novelist can do with penetrating possible motives that may have lurked behind famous crime passionel.	writing

The Saturday Review

The New Recordings

COMPOSITION, PERFORMER, ALBUM NUMBER, NUMBER OF RECORDS

ENGINEERING Recording Technique, Surface

PERFORMANCE AND CONTENT

#5 ("NEW WORLD"). Leopold Stokowski and his Symphony Orch. RCA Victor DV 25 (5

Comparison: (SAME.) All-American Youth Orch. Stokowski All-American (Prewar). Columbia MM (416 (5)

Astonishing technical difference betw. these both; this is Stoky's meat in tonal range, but far more in liveness and "presence." Wonderful feeble orchestra, even in illustration of progress in the art of realistic recording in the U.S. Old version is thin, about its best redistant, mealy. New, one of top-rank series, this orch., made 1947. this orch., made 1947, is tremendously full, round, wide, near.

ORAK, SYMPHONY Astonishing technical Same interpretation in ("NEW WORLD"). difference betwee those balls of interpretation in

Long Playing (LP) Reissues of interest: Ravel, Quartet in F, Budapest Quartet (ML 4091). Sibelius, Symphony #7, N. Y. Philh. Beecham; Wagner, "Siegfried Idyll," N. Y. Philh. Rodzinski (ML 4086). Shostakovitch, Symphony #1, Cleveland Orch. Rodzinski (ML 4101). Kabalevsky, "The Comedians"; Lecocq, Mlle. Angot Suite, N. Y. Philh. Kurtz (ML 4083). Beethoven, Quartets Opus 18, #2; 95, Budapest Quartet (ML 4073) Debussy, "La Demoiselle Elue"; Ravel, Piano Concerto for Left Hand, Sayao, Nadell; Casadesus, Phila. Orch. Ormandy (ML 4075). Puccini, "La Bohême" (Complete), Met. Opera Co. (SL 1). Dvorák, Slavonic Dances, Cleveland Orch. Szell (ML 2023). Brahms, Piano Concerto #1, Serkin, Pittsburgh Symph. Reiner (ML 4100). Mozart, Two-Piano Concerto, K. 365; Three-Piano Concerto, K. 242. Vronsky and Babin, Lhevinne, Robin Hood Dell, Little Orchs. (ML 4098). Square Dances—Carson Robison & His Old Timers (CL 6029). (ML 4098). Square Dances—Carson Robison & His Old Timers (CL 6029).

THE WAR IS ON

Y THE time this is in print the RCA Victor "third type" of record will be official, with its associated equipment, not interchangeable with the Columbia LP. Though the details are widely rumored at this pre-announcement time of writing, I'll have to grant Victor's correctness in suggesting that comment should await the new record's formal introduction. Said comment will appear, therefore, in coming SRL issues. Suffice it to say at this point that the two competing record systems do undoubtedly represent honest differences of opinion, backed up by enormous resources. Moreover, it may be that the two systems will not compete quite as head-on as may have seemed probable, thanks to practical differences in their usefulness. It is a tragedy, I say again, that we must have two systems in addition to the old. One company was in the field first; the other, with some logic, says may the better system win, regardless of which came first; give both a chance. Whatever the arguments, there is the fact of a war.

Meanwhile an exciting post-holiday period has brought several other sensations, announced but not yet available. Mercury launches a complete line of LP records, playable on Columbia-type equipment, both popular and classical, with the biggest news a super-LP twelve-inch record that will play as long as one hour and twenty minutes! The record, again, works on present LP equipment; the increased length is due to an ingenious groove spacing device. Mercury claims high quality, in spite of the length, and a tonal range exceeding present LP records. We shall see about that—but at this point one wonders mildly how many musical works can be found, aside from opera, to make use of such astonishing playing time! In addition to the Mercury line there are the new Columbia seven-inch short-playing microgroove records that will cover the popular field and the many shorter classical works that do not need the full LP length, using the present LP equipment. The price is proportionately lower than the standard shellac. One more company will enter the LP field soon with records somewhat shorter in playing time than the Columbia's (making high quality technically easier to achieve). This column will duly report on all of these as they are received.

-EDWARD TATNALL CANBY.

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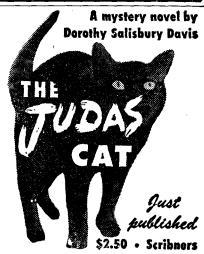
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