



Spencer Digby photograph  
W. GRAEME HOLDER

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read up his material and turned out an admirable fictional reconstruction of an historical fact. The first need of the dramatist is not knowledge but instinct—flair—call it what you will.

\* \* \*

HIS greatest strength lay in his characterisation, and he combined with this a rare gift for dramatic situation, and a sense of the microphone. He saw very clearly the difference between a play you can both see and hear and a play you can only hear. The success of a long series of *Victoriana* that he wrote to reconstruct the political and social scene of England in the 19th century was largely due to his sense of character. He made events and movements live through the talk of the persons in the plays, historical or fictional. He saw history as people rather than events. One remembers clearly Matthew and Thomas, the two commentators. The Great Exhibition of 1850 was brought before listeners by the device of taking a family to see it, and in the process one got a vivid picture not only of the Exhibition itself, but of the manners and customs of the time. To cover the Crimean War Holder introduced into an ultra-respectable English family a "black sheep" who had been in the Army, and the story is told through him. Holder had a real flair for historical plays. *Ralph in Shakespeare's England* and *In the Days of the Black Prince* have been heard in the school broadcast sessions, and had he been spared he might have continued in this line indefinitely.

Holder did a lot of radio acting, often in his own plays. The humour that, together with his fine spirit of comradeship, endeared him to his associates, helped to make him an excellent character actor. He will be greatly missed in and around the National Broadcasting Service—and among listeners everywhere.

**L**OVERS of the mystery-thriller should listen in to the new serial which will begin from 22B on Thursday, November 9, at 10 p.m. The serial is unequivocally entitled *Adventure*, and has its setting in Egypt, where, in the shadows of the Pyramids, almost anything may be expected to happen—and in this case does.



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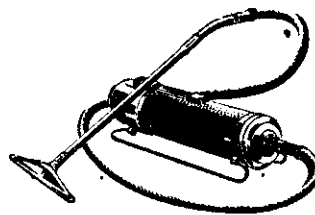
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