

## PARTNERS IN OPERA

**L**ISTENERS in New Zealand will shortly hear a serial in six episodes, *Gilbert and Sullivan: The Story of a Great Partnership*, which was one of the BBC's most successful productions last year. It brought a flood of appreciative letters from British listeners and enthusiastic notices by the radio critics. This production, in which the tale of the oddly assorted pair of geniuses is told against a setting of the best and gayest songs from the operas, is on the grand scale. Leslie Bailey, whose *Scrapbook* programmes have long been a popular BBC feature, wrote the script after intensive research. The songs and music



BBC photograph  
**MALCOLM SARGENT**

are given by well-known singers, with the BBC Theatre Orchestra and Chorus, and a strong cast of actors and actresses play the dramatic scenes. Howard Agg is the producer.

The serial will be in six episodes. It will trace the careers of Gilbert and Sullivan from their early experiments in writing and music through the greatest partnership in the history of the theatre, and it will tell the background story of the operas that are loved as well to-day as when they first delighted audiences more than half a century ago.

The series will be introduced in a talk by Sir Malcolm Sargent, who is well qualified to talk about the Savoy operas, for he has been a Gilbert and Sullivan lover since he was a small boy. At the age of 16 he conducted *The Gondoliers* for his local amateur operatic society. In 1926 Rupert D'Oyley Carte asked him to take charge of the music for an important revival of the operas in London, and he was in charge again at another revival in 1929, this time at their original home, the Savoy Theatre, which had been completely rebuilt.

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## NOVELS OF IMPORTANCE

**KINGSBLOOD ROYAL**, Sinclair Lewis, 12/6 posted. A novel that has set America by the ears, on a theme that transfixes by its dramatic quality and enlightens by its significance for all human beings.

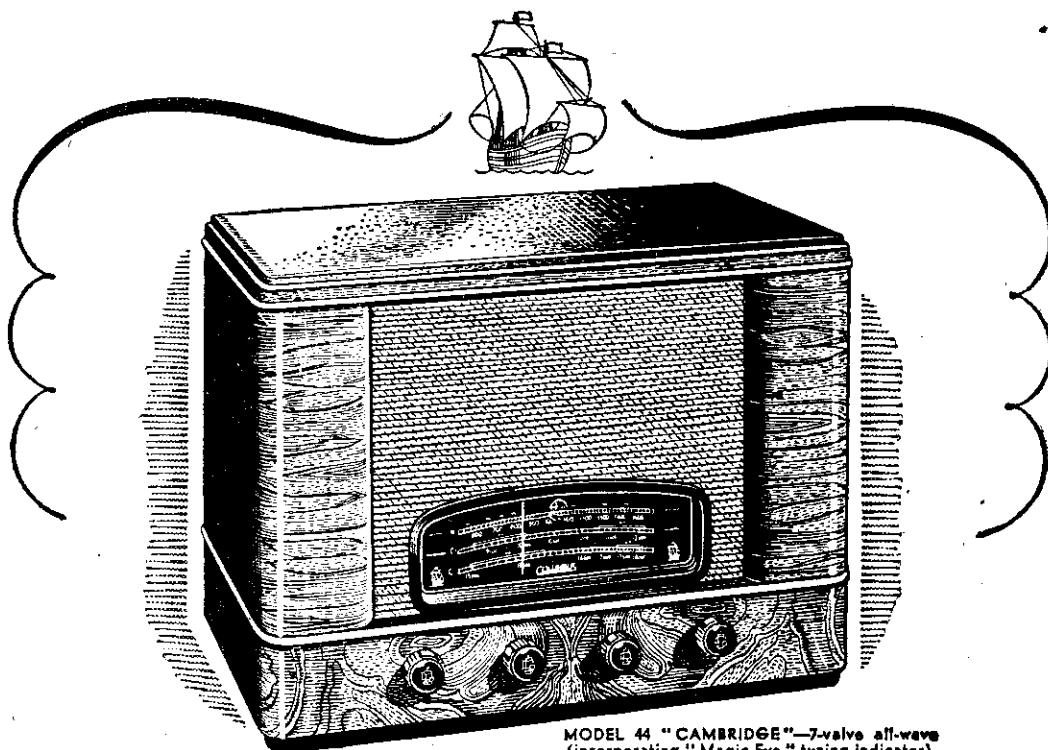
**THE AXE OF WANDSBEK**, Arnold Zweig, 13/9 posted. Without question one of the most powerful and revealing books on life in Germany under the Third Reich.

**SCOTT-KING'S MODERN EUROPE**, Evelyn Waugh, 6/3 posted. Mr. Scott-King is a middle-aged schoolmaster and classical scholar whose experiences in Modern Europe form an amusing satire.

**MISTER JOHNSON**, Joyce Cary, 10/3 posted. The author combines in "Mister Johnson" the laughter-making, masculine fun of Kipling with the clear daylight irony and perceptiveness of E. M. Forster.

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