

ENTER NOW FOR THE

1957 Mobil Song Quest



Mr. Donald Jack,
1956 Mobil Song Quest Winner.

£650 in prizes!

Following the unqualified success of last year's talent search, Standard-Vacuum Oil Company (N.Z.) Ltd. are once again sponsoring "Mobil Song Quest" from June 6th to October 1st. Age limits are 18 to 45 years, and, as in the 1956 Quest, all entrants will be judged by panels of adjudicators on the basis of the best voices for radio entertainment.

The prize money—including £300 for the winner and £20 for each district finalist—plus the radio and concert experience to be gained brings to New Zealand artists an unsurpassed opportunity to win fame and success and to be heard to their best advantage. At the same time, "Mobil Song Quest" is helping to encourage the country's growing appreciation of good music and provide a worthwhile radio programme acceptable to all sections of the community.

Entry forms and conditions of entry are available from your nearest Commercial Broadcasting Station. Get yours right away!

Closing date for entries will be announced over local commercial stations

1,2,3,4ZB, 1XH, 4ZA 8.30 p.m. THURSDAYS commencing JUNE 6	3XC 7 p.m. THURSDAYS commencing JUNE 6	2XA, 2XN, 2ZA 7.30 p.m. THURSDAYS commencing JUNE 6	2XP 7.30 p.m. TUESDAYS commencing JUNE 11	1XN 7.15 p.m. WEDNESDAYS commencing JUNE 12	2XG 7.30 p.m. FRIDAYS commencing JUNE 7
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Joseph Conrad

IN 1857, at Berdyczew, near Molihow, in the southern provinces of Poland, one of England's greatest writers was born. "If I was to be a seaman," wrote Joseph Conrad in *A Personal Record*, "I would be a British seaman and no other. . . If I had not written in English I would not have written at all." Because of these early decisions, some three-quarters of Conrad's sea life was spent under the Red Duster ("the only roof over my head"), and England gained one of the best craftsmen of her language and perhaps her greatest writer on the sea.

To mark the centenary of Conrad's birth, Alan Mulgan has written a programme around the writer's life and work, *The Voluntary Englishman*, which will be heard from 2YC at 8.0 p.m. on Thursday, May 9.

In the portrait above (from an etching by Walter Tittle in the National Portrait Gallery) something may be seen of Conrad's character; here is the slightly tilted head, the keen eye of a man who knew both storms and his own strength to face them. "He was a man of the highest integrity," says Mr Mulgan, "and integrity—or as he put it, fidelity—was what he valued most in others. . . Conrad thought the world a hard and cruel taskmaster, and that man's duty was to stand up to its ills and buffets."

In *The Voluntary Englishman*, selections will be read from four of Conrad's works: *The Nigger of the Narcissus*, *Heart of Darkness*, *Typhoon* and *The Mirror of the Sea*. Although the first three of these works are framed as fiction they are all based on actual episodes in the writer's life. *The Nigger* derives from a voyage Conrad made in the 1300-ton *Narcissus* from Bombay to Dunkirk, not long after he had passed his Chief Mate's examination; *Heart of Darkness* from a trip in the Belgian Congo when he left his first command the Otago; and *Typhoon* (although in the story the vessel becomes a steamer) came from his experiences as Chief Mate of the sailing ship *Highland Forest*.

BOOKSELLERS' SCHOLARSHIP

A TRAVELLING SCHOLARSHIP, lasting about nine months, will shortly be awarded to a male assistant, under the age of 31, who is on the staff of a member of the Booksellers' Association. Details can be obtained by writing to the Secretary, Associated Booksellers, P.O. Box 322, Wellington.

Applications close May 20.

N.Z. LISTENER, MAY 3, 1957.