

MORE ABOUT PAUL TEMPLE

PAUL TEMPLE wasn't born until April, 1938, but he was first thought of in Ontario, probably within ten years of the turn of the century. The turn-of-the-century touch is a modest footnote deduced, without finger-print powder or tape-recorder (magnifying glasses are definitely archaic), from Francis Durbidge's recent account in the London



Evening News of how he concocted the character of the famous detective.

But this peep at the files is only preliminary to introduction of BBC's thirteenth Paul Temple serial—*Paul Temple and the Jonathan Mystery*. In this drama Temple operates in the vicinity of Oxford, making his infallible way from Oxford clue to "blue"—by degrees. Producer Martyn Webster is liberal with corpses, Kim Peacock (Paul Temple) with courage, cleverness and the like "private-eye" virtues, Marjorie Westbury (Steve, Temple's wife) with loving support and intuition, while Lester Mudditt (Sir Graham Forbes, of Scotland Yard) acts the "also ran."

Mr. Temple has had a slightly more exciting life than most people perhaps,

but according to Mr. Durbidge he "has his likes and dislikes. He likes fishing and collecting first editions; the music of Beethoven, Debussy, Jerome Kern and Rodgers and Hart; the plays of Noel Coward; the lyrics of Cole Porter; the water-colours of Raoul Dufy—and, of course, dry Martinis. (Whoever heard of a detective who didn't? Holmes?—definitely, old-hat.) He dislikes people who always have 'ideas' for plots (Paul Temple, too, writes mystery stories. Perhaps about people who write mystery stories about people who . . . Anyway, he has enough ideas of his own apparently); he also dislikes women who ask him whether he writes under his own name; 'hot' music (a dislike considered suspect among American private eyes), and oysters." An undistinguished personality, perhaps, but to add that little extra required of good mystery heroes the author has allowed Temple a few deviations from the path of normal existence. "During the past 12 years Temple has on more than one occasion narrowly escaped death. Last year he was nearly killed in . . ."

The list will continue to grow with the presentation of the *Jonathan Mystery* on Sundays at 7.45 p.m. from 2ZA, beginning on March 2. The serial is scheduled for other Commercial stations later in the year.

Cheerful Yesterdays

"ONE of the great New Zealand books" is the eulogistic reference made by Sir Arthur Donnelly in his *Book Shop* review of *Cheerful Yesterdays*, the autobiography of the late Mr. Justice Alpers. This programme is scheduled for broadcast from YA and YZ stations during the fortnight March 3 to March 16. The Judge's autobiography is an interesting and amusing book, according to Sir Arthur Donnelly, whose own talk fits the same pattern of literary style. A reprint, *Cheerful Yesterdays*, in its latest edition includes



O. T. J. ALPERS

two drawings of Mr. Justice Alpers by a former pupil of his—David Low. And it is as a pupil and court confere of Mr. Justice Alpers that Sir Arthur Donnelly is able to review his former master's autobiography with such warmth and understanding of what the book reveals. Whereas *Book Shop* usually consist of one or two short talks as well as the review, this issue contains only Sir Arthur Donnelly's talk. Sir Arthur has been Crown Solicitor in Christchurch since 1920.

Landscape Layout

A LAWN here and a few trees there, flower bed this side and the path that side—it all seems easy enough, but if anyone has ever looked greenly at someone else's garden they might do well to listen to Mary Lysaght's series of talks, *Landscape Architecture*. No dabbler in mere garden planning, Miss Lysaght has studied the entire field of landscape architecture, and was recently abroad furthering her knowledge of the subject. In the Scandinavian countries Miss Lysaght found that in general landscape architecture is considered essential to the correct lay-out of any constructional undertaking, and in these talks she shows how any work connected with the earth, from a seaside section to open-cast coalmining, can be improved by careful planning. Landscape architecture is described briefly by Miss Lysaght as "the conscious arrangement of the landscape for man's use and enjoyment," and in these six talks, the first of which was heard from IYA on Monday, February 25, during *Feminine Viewpoint*, and which will continue weekly from the same station, she shows how this is possible.

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