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ANNOUNCING...

THE IMMINENT AVAILABILITY OF THE FAMOUS "LIGHTNING" BLOCK MOULD



Steel shortages over the past two years have prevented the manufacture of the "Lightning" Concrete Block Mould, but we are pleased to advise you that production has now re-commenced and that this most popular Mould will shortly be available again.

Price £12/17/6 Complete

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REMEMBER! One man in one day with one Lightning Concrete Block Mould can make 100 or more Building Blocks to erect that Garage, House, Retaining Wall, Toolshed, Barn, etc.

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PERSONAL PORTRAITS

PEOPLE are a most interesting topic of conversation; and famous people simply more so. The BBC programme, *As I Knew Him*, brings to the microphone friends of famous Britons, and those who hear the feature from 2YC on Monday evenings at 10.0 p.m. will be able to get away from the rather dry biographical or obituary note concerning great figures in recent British history and hear instead personal comments by people who knew them. In the first episode, to be broadcast on Monday, April 28, St. John Ervine speaks of Thomas Hardy, relating personal anecdotes about the great novelist and poet and bringing out facts to dispel the theory that Hardy was a pessimist who withdrew from the world into a gloomy solitude. The greatness of such men as Hardy, and the quality of their work, is sometimes recognised during their life, but more often not until after their death. St. John Ervine points out that in Hardy's case his greatness was perhaps best seen in his humility. In this account St. John Ervine relates how Hardy, at the height of his career (when publishers and editors vied for the chance to publish anything he wrote) still included a stamped and addressed envelope when he submitted a poem.

The second speaker in this series is James Laver, and he talks personally of Eric Gill, the artist and craftsman. Also a humble man, Gill was nevertheless willing to take a stand against "the notion that there was something called high art on the one hand, the job of the artist, and applied art on the other, the job of the workman. He always insisted on being both." And as such Gill lived. Occasionally he may have seemed out of touch with the times but in retrospect, the clarity of Gill's vision and perception has led many to the conclusion that he never lost touch with the fundamentals of art and craftsmanship.

In the remaining three episodes of this BBC series, Sir Adrian Boult speaks of Sir Edward Elgar, John Summerson discusses Sir Edwin Lutyens, and Frank Swinnerton recounts personal reminiscences of H. G. Wells.



ERIC GILL — A self-portrait

Book Shop

NOT so very long ago, the question whether *Pleasure Garden*, a painting by the late Frances Hodgkins, should be hung in a Christchurch art gallery provoked a controversy which interested many people usually considered indifferent to art. There will be discussion about the work of this New Zealander for a long time to come, and *Book Shop* will keep it going from the main National stations during the three weeks starting Monday, April 28, with a review by R. J. Waghorn of Arthur R. Howell's *Frances Hodgkins, Four Vital Years*. Mr. Waghorn is chairman of the Standing Committee of the Association of N.Z. Art Societies. Also in this edition of *Book Shop* are talks by Stuart Perry on the 1952 Libraries' Conference and by Muriel May on "Literary Lecturing."

THE MEN OF OLD

ONCE the word was an avalanche, a raging flood,
A comet's fiery eye, a name
Spelled on a miraculous cloud.
The word was God in a consuming flame.

HOLD now to a directness
Lifting the high heaven's hat,
Swinging a contemptible world by the tail
As a boy swings a cat.

WHAT else is there to say or do
When the laughter of the men of old
Shook mountains like a tablecloth
And thunders and boulders were rolled?

—Denis Glover