

MAURICE ROWDON; PUBLICATIONS

NOVELS

Hellebore the Clown (Chatto and Windus)

Of Sins and Winter (Chatto and Windus)

Perimeter West (Heinemann)

Afterwards (Barrie Books)

TRAVEL

Italian Sketches (Gollancz)

A Roman Street (Gollancz)

Companion Guide to Umbria (Collins)

HISTORY

The Fall of Venice (Weidenfeld)

The Spanish Terror (Constable)

BIOGRAPHY

Lorenzo the Magnificent (Weidenfeld)

Leonardo da Vinci (Weidenfeld)

PUBLICATIONS IN THE UNITED STATES

The Silver Age of Venice (Praeger)

Lorenzo the Magnificent (Regnery)

The Spanish Terror (St Martin's Press)

MANUSCRIPTS AND SYNOPSES AT PRESENT ON OFFER

SOPHIA (a novel)

This is a disguised Indian cult book about a hermaphrodite called Sophia and her affairs with other women. It plays between New York and an island in the southern Mediterranean. All the characters speak in the first person, and have to be identified by the reader solely through their style of speech. To young people familiar with words like kundalini, and accustomed to Indian disciplines it comes easy. But others don't know where they are.

It has been to Chatto, Cape ('mostly impossible to understand, and dull when possible'---Tom Maschler), Constable ('a commendable try, but no quarter is given to the reader'), Bodley Head ('readers should be protected against this kind of book'), Hutchinson and Gollancz.

In the States Rosemary Macomber of Georges Borchardt said she could hardly try to place a book she couldn't make head or tail of, but did try it at David Bolt's request on Tony Godwin who turned it down.

A SONG OF THE END OF THE WORLD (a poem)

A poem with notes, seen by Chatto ('a portentous poem of 373 lines accompanied by 14 pages of pedantic explanatory notes. Certainly not. '), Seeger and Warbur ('a most intriguing sequence but unfortunately we are booked in poetry until 1976'), Bodley Head and Faber and Faber.

I suggest Allen and Unwin where I believe the poetry is in the hands of a pleasant bird.

W.H.Allen?

Newsweek is conducting a nationwide poll in the States, Do you think the end of the world is coming? According to a friend who is asking the question in Penna. the answer is usually yes.

THE INDIAN CRUCIFIXION (synopsis)

A very detailed OUTLINE in two parts, with excerpts, made on the basis of 2-300 pages of notes accumulated over the last three years. Describes Christian civil-

isation as the first stage of a 'debarbarianising operation' which has many thousands of years to run yet before the question of a valid civilisation is even mooted. Calls itself 'a handbook for barbarians, with which they can recognise themselves'. Arguments backed by much curious historical information.

At present with Geoffrey Strachan (rhyme with dawn) at Eyre, Methuen. I asked David Bolt to urge a quick 14-day decision on him. He submitted it on October 16 and it is still there.

The first publisher in the States Rosemary Macomber tried it on (after declaring this also incomprehensible) reacted with a favourable report---Praeger---but in the end was not prepared to commission, only to publish the final result after half finished MS ready. The same decision was reached here by Thames and Hudson, and Weidenfeld.

A TIBETAN VILLAGE (synopsis)

An OUTLINE with photographs. A kind of Italian Akenside or whatever that imaginary English village was. Eyre/Methuen nearly commissioned it, so did Braziller in the States. In Britain it has also been to Temple Smith, Allen Lane, Cassell.

It is now with Ben Glazebrook at Constable. He lunched me to suggest a new book, after SPANISH TERROR surprisingly paid for itself earlier this year. He has been sleeping on this for three weeks.

Rosemary Macomber loves this one, and has had it with quite a number of publishers since Braziller.

POSSIBLE OUTLETS

BRITAIN

Paperback rights: THE FALL OF VENICE (Weidenfeld)
AFTERWARDS (novel, Barrie Books)

USA

Novels: SOPHIA (MS)
AFTERWARDS (Barrie Books, London)

Projects: THE INDIAN CRUCIFIXION (Synopsis)

Paperback: THE SILVER AGE OF VENICE (Praeger)

GERMANY

Monika Schoeller
S. Fischer Verlag
6 Frankfurt 70
Geleitstrasse 25
GERMANY

Monika Schoeller has taken over the firm and wants to re-establish its old reputation for high quality books, though the daughter of the Book Club tycoon who bought the firm some years ago. She is I believe open to suggestion and it might be a good relationship to pursue at this early stage. I suggest THE INDIAN CRUCIFIXION, for a generous German commission.