

The Thriller Writer (Editorial)

While awaiting an interview recently, your editor was thumbing through a coffee table book on 'Literary England'. The brief paragraph on Lew Trenchard and SBG included a reference to the 'thriller' *In the Roar of the Sea*, originally published as a 'three-decker' 100 years ago. It is a surprising epithet to apply to a Victorian novel, but one which may be justified by the book's popularity; by the end of the year of publication it had run to its fourth edition. It is still a sought-after title today (see p.14).

The most acclaimed of his novels, *Mehalah*, now boasts an unusual revival as you will see from the article on Jonathon Gash. The author of the Lovejoy series regards *Mehalah* itself as not worth reading, but has given the heroine an extension of life. Using his pseudonym Jonathon Grant and under the Century imprint, he has produced a romantic tearjerker with the title *The Shores of Sealandings*. Meanwhile, the original can be taken to have sufficient recommendation (pace Mr. Gash) by John Fowles' introduction to the Chatto edition of 1969, to be found also in the Boydell Press paperback issue of 1983.

We are most grateful to the *Essex Countryside Magazine* for permission to reproduce both that article and Ian Yearsley's Ten Years on the Mud. We also acknowledge the similar kindness of Martin Graebe and the Wren Trust with regard to the centre pages - a copy of their programme entitled, Songs of the West, performed shortly before the launch of the Society in 1989. The Trust is putting on the programme again at the end of March this year at Killerton, near Exeter, the National Trust property whose library holds BaringGould's books (referred to by the code letter 'K' in the bibliography contained in the first three issues of the Newsletter). The Wren Trust would be glad to receive applications for tickets for this event from any SBGAS member.

We also hear of a Surrey author seeking publication of a book entitled Sabine Baring-Gould and Grace, the Mill Girl from Poppleton. We hope to have fuller information about this and reviews of the other books mentioned in this editorial for the next issue.

DPRS