

Two book reviews

# 'Ultimatum' is awful

By RICK BASTON

**ULTIMATUM** by Richard Rohmer, Clarke Irwin, Ltd.

If I were a Canadian nationalist I'd probably make a pilgrimage to Richard Rohmer's house, fall down on my knees and kiss his feet for what he says of the north. However, I'm not a nationalist and all this book does is fall down all over itself with poor writing, a draggy plot and all the excitement of Saturday night in Fredericton. Yeah, it's that bad!

The writing in this book is absolutely awful. It's as if they hired a drunken artisan to write this book. The style is reminiscent of a canning factory of statements, in which the author opened up each can, put them together in a big bowl, tossed it around and got this tossed salad mess.

The book is about the U.S. menacing Canada in the 1980's demanding oil from us or else.

Incidentally our P.M. stands up to the Americans in this. But that isn't giving anything away, you could have guessed that anyway by the time you were about twenty pages into the book.

Okay? realizing the inevitable ending, why should you continue on? One reason is Rohmer's vision of a development for the north. It is a fine plan, with great insight into the north's future. The other reason is that this book is so bad that you become fascinated by it.

I understand there is a sequel out to this book called Exxoneration. I can hardly wait.

**THE BILLION DOLLAR SURE THING** by Paul E. Erdman, Scribner & Son Ltd.

This book I like very much. It's well written, much better than most best sellers. The plot is well done, with enough twists in it to keep the story alive until the end.

The plot revolves around a proposed revaluation of the U.S.

dollar in terms of gold. Involved in the attempts to take advantage of the thing are the Arabs, the Russians, several big time bankers and a number of indendent operators, including the mafia.

The one thing I can fault in about the book are the characters. They have a tendency to be stiff and wooden in places when there is a lack of action. Some things like making love sound more clinical than real. Perhaps this is because Erdman is a banker by trade rather than a writer.

One other problem with the book is that unless you have a little knowledge of banking and money trading you may become somewhat confused at times. Also you may fail to understand what is going on when an important plot twist occurs.

Aside from these minor problems this is an excellent book to read. I understand Erdman has a new book out — it would be a good one to get your hands on.

## Funeral of composer Purcell to be heard on CBC Tues. night

Not many composers have written the music performed at their own funerals. In this instance, Henry Purcell, one of England's greatest composers, is unique. When he died on November 26, 1695, the music he had written especially for the funeral of Queen Mary, (which had taken place the previous March) was played at Purcell's funeral.

Henry Purcell's funeral will be recreated in its entirety on CBC Tuesday Night, Nov. 26, at 8:03 p.m. (Thursday, Nov. 28, 8:03 p.m. on CBC-FM's Encore). This unusual 90-minute program was prepared by freelance producer and actor Earl Pennington who researched much of the material in England.

The program includes details

### Photography

## KarKutt exhibition at Art centre

Guenther KarKutt's first one-man show in New Brunswick will be exhibited at the Art Centre of Memorial Hall, UNB, in Fredericton November 13-28. Twenty-three of his photographic intaglios — a printing process in which a photographic image is etched onto a metal plate and then inked and transferred to a piece of paper by pressure — will be on display.

Currently chairman of the media and arts division of the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design

about Purcell's life and work," Pennington says. "If one went to the funeral of a friend, during the course of the service, one would be thinking about the friend's life and work. In the same way, Purcell's funeral music is interrupted from time to time for a retrospective look at his life." Such details will be conveyed through Pennington's conversations with Sir Jack Westrup, eminent musicologist and Purcell biographer, Dr. Peter Dennison of Clare College, Cambridge, and Sir William MacKie, former organist at Westminster Abbey.

Music heard on the program includes Funeral Sentences Said or Sung at the Grave; the anthem: Remember Not Lord Our Offences; a 1695 setting of Thou

Knowest Lord the secrets of Our Hearts; Funeral March for Mary; Canzona played by a brass ensemble; and Psalms 39 and 90.

Earl Pennington has "always been fascinated by the music of Purcell." He has been singing the composer's music for many years as a member of The Renaissance Singers and the Church of the Messiah choir in Montreal.

"This program on Purcell started out with the idea of doing Queen Mary's funeral since I had never heard all the music written for the event in sequence. When my research uncovered the fact that all the music was Purcell's, I made him the main subject. In my opinion, he is a far more interesting person to talk about than Mary."

(NSCA&D) Mr. KarKutt has worked in the photographic field most of his career.

Born in Germany in 1931, he studied photography under Erich Angenendt during 1950-51 in Dortmund, Germany. He then came to Canada and studied at Ryerson Polytechnical College in Toronto.

At different times in his career Mr. KarKutt has worked as a set designer, editor of both Photo Age and Foto Canada, teacher of

photography in Ontario and associate professor of art and head of the photography department of NSCA&D

His work has appeared in over 40 one-man shows and major group shows in places such as the George Eastman House, the Smithsonian Institute and the Canadian Government Photo Centre. He has also been represented in several National Film Board of Canada exhibitions such as Dreams, Photography 67, Focus 16 and Camera in Abstract.

## Film Programme at Art Gallery

The Beaverbrook Art Gallery will present an evening of films in conjunction with The National Gallery of Canada Exhibition, "The Bronfman Gift of Drawings". Four films on old master drawings will be screened on Wednesday, November 27, 1974 at 8:00 p.m. n

the Exhibition Galler. The films to be shown are as follows:

THE ART OF CLAUDE LORRAIN  
CARL SPITZWEG  
DELACROIX  
THE DRAWINGS OF LEONARDO

DA VINCE

Admission Free

The Beaverbrook Art Gallery requests the pleasure of your company at both of these Gallery activities.



Who takes photographs? Certainly not just professionals, and certainly not just amateurs. Can anyone take a photograph then? Can you?

The answer depends on the individual. Some people are born with the ability to take photographs. Others can snap away for years without really trying and get consistently poor results.

Personally I believe that anyone who has some measure of intelligence and is willing to work can take good photos. All it takes is patience, study and time.

Unless you are a genius it is unlikely you will produce fantastic results overnight. Most professionals have been involved in photography at least five years, most of them longer. But it is not only the professional who takes good photos. Any professional will admit that some of the world's greatest photographs have been taken by advanced amateurs.

And then you can follow the law of averages theory. It's very simple. You just buy a motor drive camera and a eight hundred exposure back. Then you take snaps of everything you see. If you're lucky, you may get at least one good shot out of eight hundred.

Sounds like fun, eh? Sounds like money too. Your average tourist-type snaphooter uses somewhere between two and ten rolls of film a year. That's only two hundred exposures a year. Quite a difference. However, a constantly working professional might go thru thirty five THOUSAND exposures a year!

Does this mean that the professionals are hoping for more luck. Not really. There's a difference between going out and shooting eight hundred shots of nothing one day a week, and shooting a hundred shots for money seven days a week. The professional has to deliver or he won't get paid. The amateur with the machine-gun, however, is under no pressure to learn so he never really does.

You have to be dedicated to take photographs. It can't be an on-again, off-again thing. Unfortunately few amateurs are willing to devote enough time to photography. They expect to be able to pick up where they left off the weekend before, but it's impossible unless they left off nowhere.

Contrary to popular misconception, photography is not easy. Lugging ten pounds of equipment on location in ninety degree heat is no easier than trying to

operate camera controls with frozen fingers. Many amateurs give up and leave their camera at home in the winter. Slackers, one and all! You've gotta love it.

So who takes photographs? Anyone can. If they have decent equipment, patience and at least a little luck.

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