

the quality of **MERCER**

A BIBLIOGRAPHY



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THE QUALITY OF MERCER

a bibliography of writings by and about
the playwright David Mercer

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P R E F A C E

This bibliography is based on work done by Francis Jarman for his M.A. thesis on David Mercer at Sussex University in 1971. Francis and myself have steadily added references since that year, with a final major search by myself in the spring of this year in which I was joined by Malcolm Page who produced a mass of additions to the bibliography.

This, by no means a complete bibliography. It is very nearly comprehensive for the period up to 1966. From then on reviews in the following areas have still to be researched:

- 1) the popular daily and Sunday newspapers
(Express, Mirror, News of the World, etc)
- 2) local papers, especially from the north
- 3) political papers (Morning Star, etc)

We could very much welcome help in researching in these areas for a future definitive edition.

However, with those stated exceptions, we still have a very substantial bibliography of the writings by and about David Mercer. In view of the increasing interest in his plays I felt that we should publish what has been compiled rather than waiting for several years until we had neared that elusive 'completeness'. That is also the reason why this is a duplicated publication. We hope to produce the definitive edition in the late seventies.

There is very little American material included. Indeed Malcolm Page was unable to locate any reviews of the two plays published in the U.S. (Ride a Cock Horse and Belcher's Luck) nor of Doll's House which was seen in Canada on television on December 23rd, 1973. There is even less foreign language material. In spite of the German translation of Flint, the only reference I was able to trace was one in Russian.

The title has been used twice before. In a review of After Haggerty by Kenneth Hurren in the Spectator in 1971, and in an interview on Duck Song by Hugh Hebert in the Guardian in 1974. In view of the range of David Mercer's writing it seemed the obvious title for the bibliography.

It only remains for me to welcome any additions to this bibliography. Please send them to me at Smoothie.

John Noyce,
Brighton

July 1974

ADDENDUM

In His Own Write...: Plays

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Contains The Bankrupt, You and Me and Him, An Afternoon at the Festival, and Find Me. Also the poem Gone Away.

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SUNDAY CITIZEN, June 27th, 1965

NEWS OF THE WORLD, June 27th, 1965

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PUNCH, June 30th, 1965 (Jeremy Kingston)

STAGE, July 1st, 1965 (R.B.Marriott)

YORKSHIRE EVENING POST, July 3rd, 1965

VOGUE, July 1965

David Wade, Permanent Warfare,
LISTENER, August 11, 1966, p212 (book review, also
reviews Three TV Comedies)

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Paul Ferris, Thrilling Mechanics,
OBSERVER, November 10th, 1968, p22

Laurence Thompson, Who's for Pot?,
LISTENER, November 14th, 1968, pp659-660

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Revived at the Hampstead Theatre Club, January 21, 1972

Charles Lewsen, Ride a Cock Horse,
TIMES, January 25th, 1972, p11

Helen Dawson, Wedding Knells,
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PLAYS AND PLAYERS, March 1972, p45

TIMES, January 19th, 1972, p10 (revival plans)

TIME OUT, no.100, January 14-21, 1972, p29

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Film version of A Suitable Case for Treatment
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Synopsis: THEATRE QUARTERLY, vol.3 no.9, p90

Brendan Gill, Son of Kong,
NEW YORKER, April 9th, 1966, pp86,88

David Robinson, Going Ape,
FINANCIAL TIMES, April 15th, 1966

Horace Alpert, Morgan Who?,
SATURDAY REVIEW, April 16th, 1966, p65

Kenneth Tynan, Morgan-A Suitable Case for Treatment;
Pierrot le Fou, in Tynan Right & Left (London: Longmans,
1967) pp258-259, a review originally appearing in
OBSERVER, April 17th, 1966

Robert Hatch, Films, NATION, April 25th, 1966, p502

Stanley Kauffman, Travesty and Travelogue,
NEW REPUBLIC, April 30th, 1966, pp30,32-33

Richard Schickel, There, There, Little Non-Hero,
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Philip T. Hartung, The Morgan Grinder,
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Maira Walsh, Films, AMERICA, June 18th, 1966, p861

David Mercer, Suitable cases for treatment,
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Malcolm Boyd, Trenchant Trio,
CHRISTIAN CENTURY, December 28th, 1966, p1604

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DAILY EXPRESS, April 13th, 1966

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 MADAMOISELLE, June 1966, p52
 TIME, April 1st, 1966, p99
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 (New York, 1967) pp248-252

Dwight Macdonald, Dwight Macdonald on Movies,
 (Englewood Cliffs, N.J., Prentice-Hall, 1969) pp406-411
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Pauline Kael, So Off-Beat We Lose the Beat, in
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David Robinson, World Cinema: a short history,
 (London, Eyre Methuen, 1973) p299

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 Synopsis: THEATRE QUARTERLY, vol.3 no.9, pp56-57

Usurped after 40 lustful years of service,
 TIMES, November 18th, 1966

Philip Hope-Wallace, Belcher's Luck,
 GUARDIAN, November 18th, 1966

David Nathan, The very best of luck to Belcher and co,
 SUN, November 18th, 1966

Milton Shulman, From the class war-a dated dispatch,
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OBSERVER, November 20th, 1966

Harold Hobson, Seedtime and harvest,
SUNDAY TIMES, November 20th, 1966

Robert MacDonald, Mercer play impressive but
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Jeremy Kingston, Theatre,
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D.A.N. Jones, Mercer's Mooncalf .,
NEW STATESMAN, November 25th, 1966, p802

Simon Trussler, Ignoble Savages,
TRIBUNE, November 25th, 1966

More than Meets the Eye?
TIMES EDUCATIONAL SUPPLEMENT, December 23rd, 1966, p1516

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ENCOUNTER, February 1967, pp57. Reprinted in
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(London, Alcove Press, 1973) pp157-158

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 Synopsis: THEATRE QUARTERLY, vol.3 no.9,p57

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 OBSERVER, February 26th, 1967,p23 (preview)

R.W.Cooper, Girl on brink of insanity,
 TIMES, March 2nd, 1967, p10

Stanley Reynolds, Television,
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 OBSERVER, March 5th, 1967, p26

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 SUNDAY TIMES, March 5th, 1967, p47

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 FINANCIAL TIMES, March 8th, 1967, p26
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Dennis Potter, Sting in the Brain,
 NEW STATESMAN, March 10th, 1967, pp338-9

Malcolm Page, The British Television Play,
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 NEW STATESMAN, May 11th, 1973, p704

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- BBC Television, January 21st, 1968 (In BBC Archives)
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- TIMES, January 13th, 1968, p19 (photographs)
- Michael Billington, David Mercer's study of
young German aristocrat, TIMES, January 22nd, 1968, p6
- T.C.Worsley, What became of Werner,
FINANCIAL TIMES, January 24th, 1968, p22.
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T.C.Worsley, Television: The Ephemeral Art, (London,
Alan Ross, 1970) pp46-47
- Ann Purser, One Man's Tribute to His Idea of a
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- Francis Hope, Patrician Front,
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- Ruth Hall, Messages in the Sky,
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- George Melly, Television,
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- Peter Black, Plays,
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- Anthony Page, Parachutist for the Nazis,
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- Eating people is metaphorical,
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- Malcolm Page, The British Television Play,
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- Henry Raynor, Murdering Vivaldi,
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- TIMES, April 2nd, 1968, p11 (preview)
- Maurice Wiggin, T'First Gentleman,
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- George Melly, Mercer's Phantoms,
OBSERVER, April 14th, 1968, p24
- T.C.Worsley, The Shapely Vivaldi,
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Art (London, Alan Ross, 1970), pp70-71
- Peter Black, Bad News,
LISTENER, April 18th, 1968, p514
- Ann Purser, Elegant and Stylish Mercer Play,
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- Stuart Hood, Proper Shocker,
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- Francis Hope, Tiger Sense,
NEW STATESMAN, April 19th, 1968, p525.

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- Revived at the King's Head, London, October 24th, 1972
- Michael Billington, David Mercer's Let's Murder
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- Irving Wardle, Let's Murder Vivaldi,
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- TIME OUT, no.142, November 3rd-9th, 1972, p32 +photo
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- BBC Television, November 27th, 1968
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- Voices from the cube, TIMES LITERARY SUPPLEMENT,
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- M.B., On the Eve of Publication and Other Plays,
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- First performed at the Aldwych Theatre, London,
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Synopsis: THEATRE QUARTERLY vol. 3 no. 9, p90

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- John Elsom, A victim of dialogue,
LONDON MAGAZINE, September 1970, pp60-64
- Anecdotal anachronisms, TIMES LITERARY SUPPLEMENT,
September 25th, 1970, p1096 (review of the book)
- STAND, vol.12 no.2, 1971, pp72-73 (Philip Roberts)

EMMA'S TIME

- BBC Television, May 13th, 1970
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- First performed by Ambiance at the I.C.A., August
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Synopsis: Francis Jarman, THEATRE QUARTERLY, vol.3
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The Times Diary: Next Henry,
TIMES, June 1st, 1971, p10 (brief summary with
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Life with father, GUARDIAN, January 19th, 1972, p11
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First performed by Multiview at the Cockpit, London,
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Synopsis: THEATRE QUARTERLY, vol.3 no.12, p86

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US title: WEDNESDAY'S CHILD Released 1972

Synopsis: THEATRE QUARTERLY, vol.3 no.9, p90

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NEW SOCIETY, January 13th, 1972, pp73-74

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John Coleman, Kubrick's Ninth,
NEW STATESMAN, January 14th, 1972, p56

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TIMES, January 14th, 1972, p8

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SUNDAY TIMES, January 16th, 1972, p27

David Wilson, Family Life,
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Synopsis: THEATRE QUARTERLY, vol.3 no.9, p90

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RADIO TIMES, November 23rd, 1972, pp9,11

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Michael Frostick, The Bankrupt,

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Preview: SUNDAY TIMES, November 26th, 1972, p52

(Elkan Allen?)

Reviews: TIMES, November 28th, 1972, p10

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BBC Television, February 22nd, 1973

Synopsis: THEATRE QUARTERLY, vol.3 no.12, p86

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SUNDAY TIMES, February 18th, 1973, p52 (preview)

Derek Brandon, You and Me and Him;

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Synopsis: THEATRE QUARTERLY, vol.3 no.12, p86

Thomas Nash, May the best women's lib man win....,

DAILY TELEGRAPH MAGAZINE, no.435, March 2, 1973, pp16-22

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OBSERVER REVIEW, July 8th, 1973, p30

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ITV, May 6th, 1973 (Yorkshire Television prodn)

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Sheldon Larry, An Afternoon at the Festival, STAGE, May 10th, 1973, p13

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DAILY EXPRESS, May 7th, 1973, p8 (James Thomas)

DAILY MIRROR, May 7th, 1973, p18 (Matthew Coady)

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Angela Carter, The Heroines of Hardy - Women Struggling to Love, RADIO TIMES, November 22nd, 1973, p59

Leonard Buckley, A Grim and Dreadful Tale, TIMES, December 14th, 1973, p13

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Andrew Goodman, Mercer, Marxism and a Sense of Tragedy, TIME OUT, no.206, February 8-14th, 1974, pp10-11 (interview) (short extract included in Pseuds Corner, PRIVATE EYE, March 8th, 1974, p6)

Hugh Hebert, The quality of Mercer, GUARDIAN, February 4th, 1974, p8 (+portrait) (interview)

Irving Wardle, Duck Song, TIMES, February 6th, 1974

Harold Hobson, Household Words, SUNDAY TIMES, February 10th, 1974, p29

Frank Marcus, Turn Around, SUNDAY TELEGRAPH, February 10th, 1974, p18

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AF	An Afternoon at the Festival	R22
AH	After Haggerty	R16-17
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BP	The Birth of a Private Man	R 6
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C	A Climate of Fear	R 3-4
CA	The Cellar and the Almond Tree	R18
DH	A Doll's House	R21
DS	Duck Song	R22-23
E	Emma's Time	R19
F	Flint	R18
FA	Folie A Deux	R23
FL	Family Life	R20
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G	The Generations	R 7
GL	The Governor's Lady	R 7-8
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HN	Henry the Ninth	R20
I	In Two Minds	R13
I(r)	In Two Minds (revival)	R13
L	Let's Murder Vivaldi	R14-15
L(r)	Let's Murder Vivaldi (revival)	R15
M	Morgan	R10-11
O	On The Eve of Publication	R16
P	The Parachute	R14
R	Ride a Cock Horse	R 8-9
R(p)	Ride a Cock Horse (radio production)	R 9
R(r)	Ride a Cock Horse (revival)	R 9-10
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WL	A Way of Living	R 6
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Y	You and Me and Him	R21

AGNELLI, Giovanni	3
ALLEN, Elkan	B,Y
ALPERT, Horace	M
AMOS, Jack	3
ANIKST, A	3
B,D.F.	R(r),F
B,M	O,AH
BAKER, Bert	3
BAKEWELL, Joan	3
BARKER, Felix	GL,M
BENDLE, Alan	BM(s)
BILLINGTON, Michael	P,L(r),CA,BT
BLACK, Peter	C,P,L
BOYD, Malcolm	M
BRAGG, Melvyn	3
BRAINE, John	3
BRANDON, Derek	Y
BRIEN, Alan	GL,R,BL
BRITANNICA BOOK OF THE YEAR	3
BRITISH NATIONAL FILM CATALOGUE	M
BROWNE, E.Martin	BL
BRUSTEIN, Robert	L(r)
BRYDEN, Ronald	GL,BL,AH,AH(r),F
BUCKLEY, Leonard	BH
BURGESS, Anthony	I
CAREY, John	CA
CARTER, Angela	BH
CELLAR, Celia	CA
CLARK, George	C
CLAYTON, Sylvia	AF
COADY, Matthew	AF
COLEMAN, John	FL
CONTEMPORARY AUTHORS	3
COOPER, R.W.	I
COPELAND, Sonia	3
CROZIER, Mary	WD,C,BP,AD
DARLINGTON, W.A.	GL
DAWSON, Helen	R(r),DS
de JONGH, Nicholas	I(r)
DOTRICE, Michele	E
DRIBERG, Tom	WD
DRIVER, Christopher	3
DUNKLEY, Chris	B
ELLIS, K	4(Reeve)
ELSON, John	F

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FERRIS, Paul	R(p),FA
FIDDICK, Peter	AF
FORSTER, Peter	WD
FREEMAN, Hugh	FL
FROSTICK, Michael	B
GAMMON, Clive	AF
GARDNER, Llew	3
GELBERT, Roger	BM(s)
GIFFORD, Denis	M
GILL, Brendan	M
GILLIATT, Penelope	GL,R
GLAESSNER, Verina	FL
GOODMAN, Andrew	DS
GORDON, Giles	3
GOULD, Donald	FL
GOWERS, Michael	BM,(t)
GRIFFITHS, Gareth	3
HALL, Ruth	P
HAMILTON, Ian	E,AF
HAMMOND, Jonathon	L(r)
HANLEY, Clifford	C,S
HARTUNG, Philip T	M
HATCH, Robert	M
HAYMAN, Ronald	3
HEBERT, Hugh	DS
HENNESSY, Brendan	WP
HILL, Derek	C,S,BP,FT
HIRSCHHORN, Clive	M
HOBSON, Harold	R,R(r),BL,L(r),AH,AH(s),F,DS
HOLMSTROM, John	AD,O
HOOD, Stuart	L
HOPE, Francis	P,L
HOPE-WALLACE, Philip	BL,AH,F
HUDSON, Roger	S
HUNT, Albert	DS
HURREN, Kenneth	AH(r)
JAMES, Clive	B
JARMAN, Francis	4,5(Theatre Qtly),6,WL,WP,Y
JONES, D.A.N.	4,BL,AH
JONES, David	BL,AH
KAEL, Pauline	M
KAUFMANN, Stanley	M
KAVANAGH, P.J.	GL,P
KING, Peter	FL

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KINGSTON, Jeremy	GL,R,BL
KITCHIN, Laurence	FT
KNIGHT, Arthur	FL
KNOWLES, Stuart	AF
LAMBERT, J.W.	AH,F
LANE, Stewart	C,BP
LARRY, Sheldon	AF
LENNON, Peter	AF
LEWSEN, Charles	R(r)
LOVELL, Alan	4
M., M.A.	I(r)
MACDONALD, Dwight	M
MACDONALD, Robert	BL
MCKERN, Leo	AF
MALCOLM, Derek	AH
MANVELL, Roger	4
MARCUS, Frank	L(r),DS
MAROWITZ, Charles	GW,R
MARRIOTT, R.B.	GL,R,L(r),AH,AH(r)
MATHEOPOULOS, Helena	4
MELLY, George	P,L,O,CA,E
MORETON, Angela	O
MORTIMER, Penelope	4
NASH, Thomas	DH
NATHAN, David	BL
NIGHTINGALE, Benedict	I(r),L(r),AH,AH(r),F,DS
NKOSI, Lewis	E
PAGE, Anthony	P
PAGE, Malcolm	4,G,I,P
PALMER, Tony	FL
PARKIN, Frank	4
PORTER, Peter	FA
POTTER, Dennis	I
POWELL, Dilys	M,FL
PRESTON, James	E
PRITCHETT, V.S.	R
PURSER, Ann	P,L,CA
PURSER, Philip	S,WL
RAYNOR, Henry	L,O,E
REEVE, A.	4
REYNOLDS, Stanley	I,O,E
RICHARDSON, Gina	M
RICHARDSON, Maurice	C,BM(t),I

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ROBERTS, Philip	F
ROBINSON, David	M(2)
ROUD, Richard	M
SANDILANDS, John	4
SCHICKEL, Richard	M
SEARCH, Gay	4
SHAW, Iain	GL
SHULMAN, Milton	GL,R,BL
SIMON, John	M
SPURLING, Hilary	AH,F
STONIER, G.W.	BP
STOREY, David	4,G
SULIK, Boleslaw	C,G,M
SWINSON, Arthur	5
TAYLOR, Don	5,WD,C,S,BP,FT,AD
TAYLOR, John Russell	5,AD,R(r),O,AH(r),FL
TAYLOR, Roger	5
TAYLOR, Sebastian	R
THOMAS, James	AF
THOMPSON, Laurence	R(p)
TRUSSLER, Simon	BL,AH,AH(r),F
TYNAN, Kenneth	M
VIVIS, Anthony	AH(r)
WADDY, Stacy	5
WALKER, Alexander	M
WALSH, Moira	M
WARDLE, Irving	6,L(r),AH,AH(r),F,DS
WATERHOUSE, Robert	AH,F
WEIGHTMAN, John	BL
WESTERBECK, Colin L, jr	FL
WHITEHEAD, Philip	B
WIGGIN, Maurice	I,L,O,CA,E
WILLIAMS, Raymond	O
WILSON, David	FL
WILSON, John	BM(t)
WOLF, Daniel	6
WOOD, Michael	FL
WORSLEY, T.C.	AD,I,P,L,O,E
YOUNG, B.A.	GL,R,BL,AH,F
ZADEK, Peter	AH

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