

A Handbook of  
CONTEMPORARY FICTION  
for Public Libraries and  
School Libraries



MARY K. BIACINI

A Handbook of  
CONTEMPORARY FICTION  
for Public Libraries and  
School Libraries

by  
MARY K. BIAGINI

*with the assistance of*  
JUDITH HARTZLER



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With so much support and assistance from friends and family, it is only fair to say that any mistakes I claim for myself.

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## INTRODUCTION

This Handbook is intended for librarians in public and school libraries who are involved in the selection of contemporary fiction and who are involved in any type of reader guidance. There are obviously many current sources to use in the selection of contemporary fiction, some designed for librarians, e.g., *Library Journal* and *Booklist*, and some designed for librarians and bookstores, e.g., *Publishers Weekly*, and some designed primarily for the literate public, e.g., *The New York Times Book Review*. Retrospective selection sources such as *Fiction Catalog* and cumulative sources such as *Book Review Digest* can also be very helpful with excerpts of reviews and subject indexes. Specialized bibliographies of specific topics or genres of fiction can be quite helpful in collection development and reader guidance; many smaller libraries, however, find it impossible to purchase such narrowly focused works because of budget limitations. Both current and retrospective sources are very important and much used in the selection process; they are not, however, of much use in reader guidance, primarily because of arrangement and lack of cumulations. There is a need to provide a single-volume ready reference source.

The idea for the development of this handbook grew out of a class I taught called "Materials and Services for Adults." Students often had very little reading background, and so I began to develop short reading lists of various types of books to help them build a reading background. Over the years these lists grew, and graduates would call me for updates once they were working. Based on my own experiences as a librarian and those of my students, I knew there was a need for a guide to contemporary fiction. There were always questions of other titles by a newly discovered author or what were the titles that featured a particular detective or the name of an Australian author. This Handbook evolved based on these needs and interests.

### **Guidelines For Inclusion:**

The term "contemporary" is used in the broad sense of authors who achieved some prominence since the second world war. Some have just begun to earn their reputations in the 1980s, often on the strength of just one title. Some authors are included whose works were completed in the early part of the twentieth century, but owing to new translations or paperback editions have achieved a new or renewed reputation. In a few instances, classic authors of the nineteenth century, e.g., Edgar Allan Poe and Mary Shelley, have been included because of the continued appeal of their titles.

The Handbook is divided into two parts: Part I, Popular Genres (romances, mysteries, science fiction, westerns, etc.), and Part II, Contemporary Fiction. I included in the sections of popular genres, authors whose works are representative of that genre. The authors are not recommended in the sense that inclusion in this Handbook constitutes a recommendation for purchase. Some authors have written work included in several sections of the handbook.

The authors included in Part II, Contemporary Fiction, are more difficult to categorize, and so have been included in sections according to their countries. These authors have achieved some degree of critical acclaim by reviewers and literary critics in the United States. Each of the twelve sections concentrates on a specific genre or the critically acclaimed literature of a specific country.

Each section begins with an overview of the genre/country's literature, including definitions, identification of its most important and/or well known authors and their best known works. This introduction also includes a list of selected specialized bibliographic, selection and/or reference sources.

The overview is followed by an alphabetical listing of authors. The fiction and collected short stories of each author are listed chronologically by copyright date or date of publication in the United States.

For some genres additional information is included; e.g., in the chapters on mysteries and spy stories, the names of the detectives and spies created by the authors are listed. Nobel Prize winning authors are identified.

Standard bibliographies such as *Fiction Catalog*, specialized bibliographies for the genres and authors of specific countries, as well as standard works of criticism such as *Contemporary Literary Criticism* have been consulted in deciding which authors to include and in which categories. New titles as well as new authors have been identified through citations in *American Book Publishing Record* and reviews published in standard reviewing sources such as *Kirkus Reviews*, *The New York Times Book Review*, *Publishers Weekly* and *Library Journal*.

#### **Limitations and Arrangement:**

1. Only novels and collections of short stories by individual authors are included. If an author is well known for another kind of writing (e.g., poetry, nonfiction), that is noted at the end of the author's entry.
2. Titles published exclusively for a juvenile or young adult audience are not included.
3. Individual authors and titles are not annotated.
4. Not every work of fiction by every author is included, especially in cases in which the author is exceptionally prolific; e.g., Barbara Cartland, John Creasey, George Simenon. In these cases a sampling of the more recent or well-known titles is included.
5. Authors and titles are placed in the category which seems most appropriate. Categories, however, are not always easy to determine because characteristics may overlap. Some authors and titles are listed in several categories.
6. Entries for each author are listed chronologically by copyright or publication date in the United States.

7. Titles in a series or sequence (a group of related books so designated by the publisher) are listed together under the series/sequence title.
8. Titles published through 1988 are included for each author.

**Decisions:**

1. Name Authority:

- a. Pseudonyms:

If an author publishes a work under a pseudonym, the work is listed under that pseudonym. The author's real name is listed under the pseudonym if known, and there are cross references to other names used by the author if works written under that name are included in the book. E.g., the entry for Jack Higgins states:

HIGGINS, JACK 1929-

Real name: Harry Patterson; also writes as Harry Patterson & Hugh Marlow

(Title Entries)

See also as PATTERSON, HARRY, P.

If works are not included under a specific pseudonym, that pseudonym is listed after the author's real name. No titles are listed for Hugh Marlow and so there is no "See also" for this name.

- b. Joint Authors:

Titles are listed under the first name given on the title page. A "See" reference to this entry is listed under the second or joint author.

- c. Authors in Several Sections:

Authors whose works fall into multiple chapters have "See also" references to all sections in which works by that author are included. Entry numbers are indicated. The Author Index may also be checked.

- d. Information about Authors:

Birth and death dates and nationality are noted for authors when available. If no country is listed, the author is American.

- e. Disputed Copyright Dates:

When copyright information differs in several sources and in an examination of the title, the copyright date listed in CBI (*Cumulative Book Index*) is used.

f. Foreign Language Translations:

For titles of authors listed in Section Twelve, World Authors, who write in a language other than English, the date of the first English translation published in the United States is used. When known, the date of the publication of the work in its original country is given in parentheses after the title. E.g., Alberto Moravia 1963 *More Roman Tales* (1959).

2. Title Changes and Revisions:

a. Revised Editions:

Revisions are noted with publication date when known. E.g., John Fowles 1966 *The Magus* (Rev. ed., 1978).

b. Title Changes:

Title changes are noted when known and new dates given. In Section Five, *Mysteries & Detective Stories*, English titles are indicated in parentheses when known. These are worth noting because often U.S. paperback reprint editions of older British titles use the original British title, not the U.S. hardback title.

**Abbreviation Used:**

In order to save space, the following abbreviations have been used, and the sections in which they are used are noted in parentheses.

FS	Family Saga	(Section One)
G	Gothic	(Section One)
H	Horror	(Section Two)
HR	Historical Romance	(Section One)
Jt.	Joint Author	(Throughout)
NF	Nonfiction	(Throughout)
R	Romance	(Section One)
RA	Romantic Adventure	(Section One)
SN	Supernatural & the Occult	(Section Two)
S	Suspense	(Section Two)
SS	Short Stories	(Throughout)



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## SECTION ONE

### ROMANCES, ROMANTIC ADVENTURES, HISTORICAL ROMANCES, FAMILY SAGAS, AND GOTHICS

#### OVERVIEW

##### Family Sagas (FS):

A family saga is a story of several generations (usually at least three) of a large family or several interrelated families. An early example is *The Forsythe Saga* (1922) by the English writer John Galsworthy.

Most family sagas currently being written take place in nineteenth and twentieth century America or the British Isles.

Representative Authors and Their Specialties:

Belva Plain and Cynthia Freeman--Jewish families.

Howard Fast--immigrant families.

R. D. Delderfield--English country families.

Susan Howatch--family stories; some based on famous historical figures of earlier centuries.

##### Gothics (G):

A gothic is a story of romance, suspense and mystery that usually involves a rather stock set of characters and situations: a large and unique house in a remote or unusual setting; a young woman, poor, spunky and an outsider, who comes to the house as a quasi governess/companion/secretary; a handsome, lonely and mysterious master of the house; several young, incorrigible children; sinister servants; and a missing or dead wife.

These novels are derived from the Gothic novels of the eighteenth century, especially those dealing with terror; e.g., *Mysteries of Udolpho* (1794) by Ann Radcliffe. A prototype is *Jane Eyre* (1847) by Charlotte Bronte, and a more contemporary prototype is *Rebecca* (1938) by Daphne Du Maurier. These novels often contain unrequited love and some romance but seldom any explicit sexual activity. Most are written by women or men using female pseudonyms.

Representative Authors include Victoria Holt, the most consistently successful author; Phyllis Whitney, who often uses tropical settings; Dorothy Daniels; and Anne Maybury.

##### Historical Romances (HR):

An historical romance is a story of love and romance set in a specific historical period and often deals with reversals of social and financial

circumstances. Among the most popular periods are Regency England, Elizabethan England and nineteenth century America. Romance and social details such as costuming and social customs are emphasized much more than the historical events of the period. Sexual explicitness may vary from none to a great deal.

Subcategories include:

1. *Pure Romance*:  
Fluffy stories with no sexual activity, only the most discreet romantic encounters between young and beautiful women and dashing, but well mannered men. Representative authors include Barbara Cartland, Clare Darcy, and Georgette Heyer.
2. *Bodice Rippers*:  
Many scenes of explicit sexual activity (often described in very flowery romantic language) sometimes bordering on rape and violence. These love stories are very tempestuous and reveal a love-hate relationship between the man, who is extremely masculine, virile and dominating and the woman, who is headstrong and ravishingly beautiful. It is often not until the end of the book that the two finally realize their love for one another.

Representative authors include Kathleen Woodiwiss, Rosemary Rogers, Jude Deveraux, Patricia Matthews, Laurie McBain, Bertrice Small, Joyce Verrette, and Jennifer Wilde.

### **Romances (R):**

A romance is a contemporary story of love, usually among upper-middle and upper-class men and women. The settings are most often glamorous (New York, Rome) and the characters are independently wealthy or in interesting careers (doctors, lawyers, business tycoons, designers). After several adversities, the ending is happy. The sexual content varies.

Representative authors include Danielle Steel, Janet Dailey, Faith Baldwin, Catherine Cookson, Grace Livingston Hill (religious themes), and Helen Van Slyke.

Publishers series, paperback originals almost exclusively, are most important: e.g., Harlequin, Silhouette, Candlelight. These series are modified or discontinued depending upon sales.

### **Romantic Adventures (RA):**

Romantic adventure is a story that combines the elements of romance and adventure, with romance emphasized more than adventure. The settings are always colorful and exotic. In many the protagonist is female and there tends to be very little violence. The most popular author is Mary Stewart.

**REFERENCE AND BIBLIOGRAPHIC SOURCES**

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- Fallon, Eileen. *Words of Love, a Complete Guide to Romance Fiction*. New York: Garland, 1984.
- Frenier, Mariam Darce. *Good-bye Heathcliff: Changing Heroes, Heroines, Roles, and Values in Women's Category Romances*. New York: Greenwood Press, 1988.
- Lowery, Marilyn M. *How to Write Romance Novels That Sell*. New York: Rawson, Wade, 1983.
- Radway, Janice A. *Reading the Romance: Women, Patriarchy, and Popular Literature*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1984.
- Ramsdell, Kristin. *Happily Ever After: A Guide to Reading Interests in Romance Fiction*. Littleton, Co: Libraries Unlimited, 1987.

## AUTHORS AND TITLES

- 0001  
ADAMS, DORIS  
1966 *The Price of Blood*  
1968 *Power of Darkness*  
1969 *No Man's Son*
- 0002  
AIKEN, JOAN 1924-  
England  
1970 *The Embroidered Sunset*  
1972 *A Cluster of Separate Sparks*  
1974 *Midnight Is a Place*  
1976 *Castle Barebane*  
1978 *The Five-Minute Marriage*  
1978 *The Smile of the Stranger*  
1980 *The Weeping Ash*  
1982 *The Girl from Paris*  
1985 *Mansfield Revisited*  
1987 *If I Were You*  
Also writes novels for juveniles  
See also MYSTERIES, 0389
- 0003  
ALLARDYCE, PAULA  
England  
Real name: Ursula Torday; also writes  
as Charity Blackstock, Lee Blackstock,  
& Charlotte Keppel  
1954 *After the Lady*  
1955 *The Doctor's Daughter*  
1955 *A Game of Hazard*  
1956 *Adam & Evelina*  
1956 *The Man of Wrath*  
1957 *The Lady & the Pirate*  
1957 *Southern Folly*  
1958 *Beloved Enemy*  
1958 *My Dear Miss Emma*  
1959 *Death My Lover*  
1959 *A Marriage Has Been Arranged*  
1961 *The Gentle Highwayman*  
1961 *Witches' Sabbath*  
1965 *Octavia*  
1967 *Six Passengers for the "Sweet Bird"*  
1975 *Eliza (1972)*  
1975 *Gentleman Rogue (1966)*  
1975 *Legacy of Pride (1963)*  
1976 *The Carradine Affair (1974)*  
1976 *Emily (1968)*  
1976 *Paradise Row (1964)*  
1977 *Miss Philadelphia Smith*  
1977 *Shadowed Love (1970)*  
1978 *Haunting Me*  
1979 *The Rebel Lover (1960)*
- G 1979 *The Rogue's Lady*  
1980 *The Vixen's Revenge*
- 0004  
ARCHER, JEFFREY 1940- FS  
England  
1980 *Kane & Abel*  
G 1982 *The Prodigal Daughter (Sequel to Kane)*  
See also HEADLINES, 0230 & 0260
- 0005  
BALDWIN, FAITH 1893-1978 R  
1926 *Three Women*  
1927 *Departing Wings*  
1928 *Alimony*  
1930 *The Office Wife*  
1932 *Week-End Marriage*  
1934 *Wife Versus Secretary*  
1937 *The Heart Has Wings*  
1941 *Temporary Address: Reno*  
1944 *Change of Heart*  
1944 *He Married a Doctor*  
1947 *Give Love the Air*  
1948 *Marry for Money*  
1952 *The Juniper Tree*  
1957 *Three Faces of Love*  
1964 *The Lonely Man*  
1966 *There Is a Season*  
1969 *The Velvet Hammer*  
1970 *Take What You Want*
- 'Little Oxford':  
1939 *Station Wagon Set*  
1971 *Any Village*  
1973 *No Bed of Roses*  
1974 *Time & the Hour*  
1975 *New Girl in Town*  
1976 *Thursday's Child*  
1977 *Adam's Eden*  
Selected titles; has been writing since  
the 1930s; Warners paperback series
- 0006  
BANIS, V. J. 1937-  
1978 *This Splendid Earth*  
1978 *The Sword & the Rose*  
1980 *The Earth & All It Holds*  
1985 *San Antone*

- 0007  
BARBER, NOEL FS  
1981 Tanamera  
1983 A Farewell to France  
1984 Sökkärä  
1987 The Other Side of Paradise  
1988 The Weeping & the Laughter
- 0008  
BARRON, ANN FORMAN  
1960 Murder Is a Gentle Kiss  
1961 Spin a Dark Web  
1969 Strange Legacy  
1972 Dark Vengeance  
1973 Bride of Menace  
1973 Serpent in the Shadows  
1975 Banner Bold & Beautiful  
1977 Firebrand  
See also as ERWIN, ANNABEL, 0047
- 0009  
BEAUMAN, SALLY  
England  
1987 Destiny
- 0010  
BERMANT, CHAIM 1929- FS  
1963 Jericho Sleep Alone  
1964 Berl Make Tea  
1964 Ben Preserve Us  
1966 Diary of an Old Man  
1967 Swinging in the Rain  
1969 Here Endeth the Lesson  
1971 Now Dowager  
1972 Roses Are Blooming in Picardy  
1973 The Last Supper  
1976 The Second Mrs. Whitberg  
1977 The Squire of Bor Shachor  
1981 The Patriach  
1983 The House of Women
- "Titch Trilogy":  
1987 Titch
- 0011  
BINCHY, MAEVE  
Ireland  
1980 Central Line: Stories of Big City  
Life (SS)  
1980 Victoria Line  
1983 Light a Penny Candle  
1984 The Uliac Bus  
1986 Echoes  
1986 London Transports  
1988 Firefly Summer
- 0012  
BLACK, LAURA HR  
1977 Glendracó  
1978 Ravenburn  
1979 Wild Cat  
1971 Strathgallant  
1986 Fall of Gard
- 0013  
BLAKE, JENNIFER 1942- HR  
Also writes as Patricia Maxwell, Maxine  
Patrick, Patricia Ponder & Elizabeth  
Treaheame  
1970 The Secret of Mirror House  
1971 Stranger at Plantation Inn  
1974 Dark Masquerade  
1974 Bride of a Stranger  
1974 The Bewitching Grace  
1974 The Court of the Thorn Tree  
1977 Love's Wild Assault  
1977 Notorious Angel  
1977 Love's Wild Desire  
1979 Tender Betrayal  
1979 The Storm & The Splendor  
1980 Golden Fancy  
1986 Prisoner of Desire  
1988 Perfume of Paradise
- 0014  
BLOOM, URSULA 1893-1984 HR  
England  
Also writes as Sheila Burns, Mary Essex,  
Rachel Harvey, Deborah Mann, Sara  
Sloane & Lozania Prole  
1977 The Fire & the Rose  
1978 Mirage of Love  
1978 Born for Love  
1979 Tomorrow Never Comes  
1979 The Magnificent Courtesan  
Began writing in 1920s; 520 titles in print  
in England; new to U.S.
- 0015  
BRADFORD, BARBARA TAYLOR 1933-  
1979 A Woman of Substance  
1983 Voice of the Heart  
1985 Hold the Dream (Sequel to  
Woman)  
1986 Act of Will  
1988 To Be the Best (Sequel to Hold)
- 0016  
BRAMBLE, FORBES 1939- FS  
1977 Regent Square  
1981 The Iron Roads

- 0017  
BRENT, MADELEINE G  
1973 Moonraker's Bride  
1975 Stranger at Wildings  
1977 Merlin's Keep  
1979 Tregaron's Daughter  
1980 The Capricorn Stone  
1984 Storm Swift  
1986 Golden Urchin
- 0018  
BRISCO, PATTY 1927-  
1969 Merry's Treasure  
1970 The Other People  
1973 House of Candles  
1976 Mist of Evil  
See also MATTHEWS, PATRICIA, 0098
- 0019  
BRISKIN, JACQUELINE 1927- FS  
1973 Afterlove  
1976 Rich Friends  
1978 Paloverde  
1982 The Onyx  
See also TRASH, 1115
- 0020  
BRISTOW, GWEN 1903-1980 HR, FS  
Wrote mysteries with husband, Bruce Manning  
1943 Tomorrow Is Forever  
1950 Jubilee Trail  
1959 Cella Garth  
1970 Calico Palace  
1980 Golden Dreams
- "Plantation" Trilogy:  
1937 Deep Summer  
1938 The Handsome Road  
1940 This Side of Glory  
See also HISTORICAL FICTION, 0894
- 0021  
BROMIGE, IRIS R  
1947 A Chance for Love  
1973 The Golden Cage  
1975 The Conway Touch  
1975 Family Group  
1975 Laurian Vale  
1980 A Distant Song  
1981 Rough Weather  
1985 A Slender Thread
- 0022  
BUCK, PEARL S. 1892-1973 FS, R  
Also wrote as John Sedges  
Nobel Prize, 1938  
1930 East Wind: West Wind  
1941 Other Gods  
1942 Dragon Seed  
1943 The Promise  
1946 Pavilion of Women  
1948 Peony  
1951 God's Men  
1952 The Hidden Flower  
1953 Come, My Beloved  
1956 Imperial Woman  
1957 Letter from Peking  
1959 Command the Morning  
1963 The Living Reed  
1965 Death in the Castle  
1967 The Time Is Noon  
1968 The New Year  
1969 The Good Deed (SS)  
1969 The Three Daughters of Madame Liang  
1970 Mandala  
1972 The Goddess Abides  
1973 All Under Heaven  
1974 The Rainbow  
1975 East & West (SS)  
1976 Secrets of the Heart  
1978 Mrs. Stoner & the Sea  
1979 The Woman Who Was Changed
- "House of Earth" Trilogy:  
1931 The Good Earth  
1932 Sons  
1935 A House Divided  
Also wrote nonfiction & novels for juveniles
- 0023  
BUTLER, GWENDOLINE 1922-  
1975 The Vesey Inheritance  
1977 Meadowsweet  
1979 The Red Staircase  
1982 Albion Walk  
See also MYSTERIES, 0409; ROMANCES, 0100 & MYSTERIES, 0518 as MELVILLE, JENNIE
- 0024  
CADELL, ELIZABETH 1903-  
1947 Last Straw for Harriet  
1949 Iris in Winter  
1950 Brimstone in the Garden  
1950 Sun in the Morning  
1951 Enter Mrs. Belchamber  
1953 Crystal Clear



1954 Around the Rugged Rock  
 1954 The Cuckoo in Spring  
 1955 The Lark Shall Sing  
 1955 Money to Burn  
 1956 I Love a Lass  
 1958 Shadows on the Water  
 1960 The Yellow Brick Road  
 1961 Six Impossible Things  
 1962 Honey for Tea  
 1962 The Toy Sword  
 1963 Come Be My Guest  
 1965 Canary Yellow  
 1966 The Corner Shop  
 1966 The Fox from His Lair  
 1968 Mrs. Westerby Changes Course  
 1969 The Golden Collar  
 1970 The Past Tense of Love  
 1971 The Friendly Air  
 1972 Home for the Wedding  
 1973 Royal Summons  
 1974 Deck with Flowers  
 1975 The Fledgling  
 1976 Game in Diamonds  
 1977 Parson's House  
 1978 The Round Dozen  
 1979 Return Match  
 1980 The Marrying Kind  
 1981 Any Two Can Play  
 1982 A Lion in the Way  
 1983 Remains to Be Seen  
 1985 The Waiting Game  
 1986 The Empty Nest

## 0025

CALDWELL, TAYLOR 1900-1985

Real name: Janet Miriam Taylor  
 Holland Caldwell

1938 Dynasty of Death  
 1940 The Eagles Gather  
 1941 The Earth is the Lord's  
 1942 The Strong City  
 1943 The Arm & the Darkness  
 1943 The Turnbills  
 1944 The Final Hour  
 1945 The Wide House  
 1947 There Was a Time  
 1948 Melissa  
 1949 Let Love Come Last  
 1951 The Balance Wheel  
 1952 The Devil's Advocate  
 1953 Maggie, Her Marriage  
 1954 Never Victorious, Never Defeated  
 1956 Tender Victory  
 1957 The Sound of Thunder  
 1960 The Listener  
 1961 A Prologue to Love  
 1963 Grandmother & the Priests  
 1965 Pillar of Iron

1966 No One Hears But Him  
 1967 Dialogue with the Devil  
 1968 Testimony of Two Men  
 1972 Captains & the Kings  
 1975 The Romance of Atlantis  
 1976 Ceremony of the Innocent  
 1978 Bright Flows the River  
 1981 Answer as a Man  
 See also HISTORICAL FICTION, 0896 & 0957; ROMANCES, 0113 as REINER, MAX

## 0026

CARR, PHILIPPA 1906- R, HR

Real name: Eleanor Hilbert; also writes as Eleanor Burford, Elbur Ford, Kathleen Kellow & Ellallice Tate  
 1972 The Miracle at St. Bruno's  
 1973 The Lion Triumphant  
 1975 The Witch from the Sea  
 1976 Saraband for Two Sisters  
 1977 Lament for a Lost Lover  
 1978 The Love Child  
 1979 The Song of the Siren  
 1981 Will You Love Me in September?  
 1982 The Adulteress (Sequel to Will)  
 1983 Knave of Hearts  
 1984 Voices in a Haunted Room  
 1985 The Return of the Gypsy  
 1986 Midsummer's Eve  
 1987 The Pool of St. Brannck (Sequel to Midsummer)

See also HISTORICAL FICTION, 0958; ROMANCES, 0071 as HOLT, VICTORIA; HISTORICAL FICTION, 1008 as PLAIDY, JEAN

## 0027

CARTLAND, BARBARA 1902- HR, R  
England

Also writes as Barbara McCorquodale. Wrote her first book in 1925; many titles republished in 1970s. See Barbara Cartland Library of Love Series -approximately 300 titles published by Bantam Books; others published in 'Camfield Novel of Love' series & by Jove, Pyramid & Duron.  
 1925 Jigsaw  
 1945 Armour against Love  
 1947 The Dream Within  
 1970 Duel of Hearts  
 1970 Love Is Mine  
 1970 The Royal Pledge  
 1974 Against the Storm  
 1974 Castle of Fear  
 1974 The Lessons in Love  
 1974 The Penniless Peer