

THE GALE OF THE WORLD

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THE GALE OF THE WORLD (1969)

covering the period October 1946 to September 1947

Phillip Maddison is living apart from his wife, Lucy, in the year immediately following the Second World War. He has sold his farm and handed over the proceeds in trust for the family excluding himself. Now living alone on Exmoor he is as ever haunted by the past, and his pro-German views bring him under constant fear of attack. A love affair, the death of his father, and tender relationship with his cousin's two daughters are particularly outstanding in a novel full of incident; and this final novel in A Chronicle of Ancient Sunlight completes the history of Phillip Maddison while at the same time rounding off an unsurpassed picture of fifty swiftly-changing years.

(Dust-jacket)



abbreviations

biog/biography	Henry Williamson, Tarka and The Last Romantic (1995)
TGF	The Gold Falcon (1933)
Test	A Test to Destruction (1960)
TPG	The Phoenix Generation (1965)
ASW	A Solitary War (1966)
Lucifer	Lucifer Before Sunrise (1967)
Gale/The Gale	The Gale of The World (1969)

Most of the dust-jacket blurbs of the 1985 edition of the Chronicle novels are fairly accurate summaries, bearing in mind that the persons on Macdonald's staff commissioned to write them were presumably allocated but two or three sentences in which to do the job. But the short summary of The Gale of The World overleaf describes Phillip's 'tender relationship with his cousin's two daughters [which is] particularly outstanding'. Not so, in fact, for Phillip's only known cousins are Willie Maddison (drowned 1923), Percy (killed 1916) and Polly Pickering, Arthur, May and Topsy Turney and Adele Lemon, none with children, as far as we know.* But Lucy has many cousins, e.g. Mary Ogilvie, Lord George Abeline whose only daughter is Melissa Watt-Wilby, Mrs Molly Bucentaur whose elder daughter is Miranda, some Chichesters I think, maybe a Gilbert (of Appledore) or two, perhaps a Kilmeston (Pa Copleston's sister's family). Molly Bucentaur's maiden name was Gildart (Gale p 196) (Gilbert misspelt perhaps?) and we are not sure how she is related to Lucy, but a cousin she is. (e.g. Gale p 61) Molly is also 'Buster's' cousin e.g. Gale p 61; small world it surely is.

Both Molly and daughter Miranda call Phillip 'Cousin Phillip' (e.g. Gale p 106), Phillip calls the Bucentaur children 'young cousins' (e.g. Gale p 108) and the Bucentaur children call 'Buster' Cloudesley 'Cousin Hugh'. (e.g. Gale p 110) With all these cousins and neo-cousins it is no wonder that the writer of the dust-jacket blurb got confused. The love affair he or she mentions is probably the affair, such as it is, with Laura Wissilcraft. Phillip's 'cousin' is in fact two of Lucy's cousins, Mrs Molly Bucentaur and Lord George Abeline, whose respective daughters, Miranda and Melissa, both less than half his age, compete for Phillip's affections - he should be 'Uncle' Phillip, at the least. A last comment - a great pity it is, I think, that the dust-jacket blurb does not mention the tremendous, powerful and dramatic finale, which is perhaps the best descriptive passage in the Chronicle.

* other surviving cousins are Maude Cakebread (of Wakenham) and Petal and Charley (Jr.) Turney (of South Africa), but all three have been 'lost' to the Chronicle since 1920.

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Shelley, poet	71,95,137,142,143,145,150,151,157,169,176,237, 238,240,247,270,285,335,348,351
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Somme, the	46,85,93,120,121,139,157,167,170,174,177,211,235,301

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