MARTIN THOMAS BIOGRAPHY

Strip-cartoonist at 17; then commercial artist (newspaper ads.) until War. After 51 years in army, resumed press art with newspaper and magazine illustrations and cartoons - but now combined with a dominant interest in fiction writing. First efforts a series of occult short stories, published in 8 languages. Followed newspaper serials in detective and science fiction genres, a hundred or so short stories, occasional satirical verse, a couple of Western novels and several dozen crime novels - many of the last-mentioned being published in several translations. For six years also wrote and illustrated a weekly newspaper page. Favourite exercise, riding horses. Interests: an assorted range, from philosophy to satirical comedy, psychology to show-jumping, music to medicine, the visual arts to space research. Aversions: blood sports, abstract art, puppetry, cant.

WHAT IT'S ABOUT ----

When Bart Raynor, a Jap-American racketeer, went into Sugamo Prison, it was a frame. When he came out, it was a shame—for rival racketeer, Red Maguire, who'd framed him. Fed agent, Neil Sullivan, probed deep, and the deeper he probed, the more terrible became the facts he uncarthed.

Visa For Violence is an original, fast-moving story played out against the unfamiliar background of contemporary Tokyo.

max RISCO

aftered in 1952

Max Risco has always earned his living as a freelance contributor to the press, beginning at 17 with six weekly pages of strip cartoons. He served in the army during the war. When demobilised he offered short stories to a national daily. The newspaper offered to syndicate all his stories overseas. He was soon writing thrillers and magazine stories. Branched out as a freelance writer of feature articles and serials. He has written over a score of novels; about sixty short stories; over a dozen newspaper serials. His novels and stories have been widely translated. Ambition? To discover a dictating machine that can type.

A MILESTONE AUTHOR

(Aso a PANTHER BOTT author, etc.)

Many thanks for the CODY of DECOY FOR MURDER. Very kind of you to send it. Find I have a general recollection of the story, & agree with you that it marked an epoch in SBL history. It was the new. adult. cover style which attracted my attention to the SBL in '56 after I'd practically forgotten it for a couple of decades. Clear something/someone had jerked the series out of the rut, & investigation of the contents roused my interest in writing for the more attractive New Order. My first SB (COPY-CAT KILLINGS) was in the gangster genre I believe you like. Actually, my gangster novels (for 4 publishers) still greatly outnumber my SB stories, & most of them have been published in several languages. At this moment 2 further titles (NIGHT IS SO SHORT and CORPSE AT COLLEGE) are being published, in Spanish, in S. America. As I've written in so many different fields & styles. I feel rather wry at being associated only with SB whodunits!

Dear Keith.

