The Illustrated LONDON Forecast for the coming NEWS

Decade-January Issue

weekly review

MID January Issue Magazine

It was a magnificent journey in 1907 when an Italian drove one of those new-fangled, or at least recently-fangled motorcars from Peking to Paris, 10,000 miles. It was still quite a trip when S J Perelman the American humorist and traveller set out from Paris for Peking in 1978. Here is Perelman's version of how he talked The Sunday Times into backing him for what became, sadly but triumphantly, his last trip and ...

PERELMAN'S

dred?"

Exactly. Yet can you believe that a single one of our media to press, television, radio—ever bothered to dig into that ma?"

nas ever ounered to up into that enigma?"

"Until this moment, my friend!" A hoss journalist to his fingertips, Jevous was already mentally mentall

for us?"

I permitted myself a quiet smile. "I already have."

"You mean you've written it?"
He half-rose from his chair. "I'll priat it in banner type across the front page! I'll pay you fifty thousand one second, Hannibal, slow down," I admonished. "Nobody's

when the audience here is mainly foreign — French rock stars, Italian highbinders hustling porno flicks, salesmen (Dapanese bedroom novelins for Japanese bedroom novelins) in service. At this moment, if my lipracing is accurate, Kaufman is observing that one man's Mede is nother's Persian, and Dorothy Parker, declining Edna Ferbers and invitation to precede her namely. Age before beauty. "Then this whole grishy brigadoon, this animated Madame Tussaud's, is cranked out daily for the clientele and nobody's ever tumbled?" he asked. "How did you cotton to the truth?" "Well, through Robert Benchley, actually. Tongue loosened by the grape he once confided that chambers one morning, he ran into his double. The man, freshly shaven and bowler-hatted, was on his way to perform at the Round Table. Recovering from his momentary stupefaction, Benchley dragged his Doppelganger into a sold sountain and wormed.

Jevons extracted a bandanna handkerchief and blew his nose to conceal his emotion. "Is eyes were shining." You know, fellow,

you're a brick to entrust me with this dope, even though it's 'too hot to publish. Besides which, you've saved me the cost of two investigative teams. I'd like to show my appreciation."

Here was the moment I had been waiting for. "Would you aponsor a project I'm longing to undertake? Of a pretty romantic and the project is not to the pretty of the period of the pretty of the period of the p

TIME WARP AT THE ROUND TABLE The Algonquin's literary lions of the Twenties didn't look old enough for 50 years to have passed.

Could they really be (clockwise from left) Dorothy Parker, Benchley, Woollcott, Broun, Connelly, Adams, Edna Ferber, Kaufman and Sherwood? Perelman (far right) explains to pipe-smoking Jevons

"The more romantic the better. The Sunday Chimes has a heart as big as all outdoors—except when it comes to expenses."
"We can argue about that later.

file and I'll give you the back-ground."

The three enlargements Jevons withdrew from the folder I handed him portrayed a smart little English sportscar of a bygone era with a canvas top, cut-down doors, fold-flat wind-screen, and side curtains, its stantly familiar of the "N" type. The body was black, the uphotsery of red leather, and, in the unprejudiced opinion of everyone who had ever laid eyes on it, it was as cute as a bug's ear. As I proceeded to relate its history, a strange mixture of exoticism and financial threwdness, my

ide-curtains?"

"Isinglass, man," I chortled.
"And do you know what isinglass itself consisted of? Gelain from the air bludders of Russian sturgeon."

"Hannibal Jevons regarded me fixedly." I have the feeling I'm in a satisfication of the same that the same that happened?"

"Brother!" I exulted. "Do I have to spell it out for you? Only the most spectacular European tour anyone ever made. The family and I drove all over England, France, Belgium, Holiand, anyone in the same that have to spell it out for you? Only the most spectacular European tour anyone ever made. The family and I drove all over England, France, Relgium, Holiand, anyone in the same than the same that have the same that had not anyone that had not been seenery through the air bladders of Russian sturgeon."

"A cultural experience, I take it, that you've never recovered from what. The Sunday "A cultural experience, I take it, that you've never recovered from what. The sunday "A cultural experience, I take it, that you've never recovered from what. The Sunday "A cultural experience, I take it, that you've never recovered from what has the Sunday "A covered have been sunday and the sunday in the su

Does that send a shiver up your spine? I asked eagerly.

"No, my gorge," he replied. "But let's you saide the arrual route for the moment. I'm confident the automobile can withstand the trip, but how about size of the car, do you know anything at all about what goes on under the bonnet?"

"Of course not," I said. "Furthermore, the mere sight of an internal combustion engine fill; therefore, the mere sight of an internal combustion engine fill. The word and a sustemble, I have yet to change a tyre.

"You know." Jevons said thoughtfully, "I hase to sound like, a fust-budget, but don't you think you ought to take along a "A mechanic en a trip like this? Some greass monkey in filly overalls?"

"Well, then, take one of the opposite gender—a sturdy young knowledge of carburettors could also take shorthand, cook, sew,



PERELMAN PREPARED,

THIS is the car—here in Paris, with its intrepid owner—in which S. J. Perelman set out from Paris for Peking, his MG tource bought new in 1949 and treasured ever since. It had a soft top; moreover and very importantly for Perelman it had for so he was contracted to the contract of the

and then they drove to China

All Jaeger Sales Start Thursday December 27th

LONDON BRANCHES REGENT STREET' - BAKER STREET' PROMPTON ROAD' - CHELSEA' GOLDERS GREEN - KENSINGTON'

REGIONAL BRANCHES

AREPGEN' - ALTERNICHMAI' - BATH'
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CAMBROCE - CARDIF - CHELTENHAM
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EASTBOOMNE - EDMERRICH' - DEFER
CLASSOM' - GULDERO' - HAMROCATE
BERSEY - LEADMINION SPA - LEEDS'
LIVERPOOL' - MANCH-STER' - NORMACH
NOTINICHAI' - OKYDON' - PAMOUTH'
READING - RICHMOND - SAUSBURY
SHEFIELD - SOLIFILL'S SOUTHAMPTON
SOUTH-PORT - STRATERPO LIPON AND
FALTON - TUNDEROCE WELLS' - WATHORD
WILLISSOM' - WINCHESTER - WINDSOR
WOLVERHAMPTON - VORCESTER - WINDSOR
Alloger Man Included at these throates.

BIC D EID! LOTELL'

**BOURT - LINER - LIPON - LIP



LOOK/MOTHERS-IN-LAW/BRIEF ENCOUNTERS page 37 • THE ARTS page 43 • BOOKS Page 44

KISSINGER: THE CAMBODIAN TRAGEDY Page 40 • SPECIAL CHRISTMAS QUIZ page 46

PERELMAN

Oklahoma. On second thought, though, maybe she's too spectacular for your purposes. I mean, you don't want anyone with creamy skin and hair like spun

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Contin

PERELMAN IN PEKING, WITH PROOF

PROOF

Prelman made it to Peking
—for proof, there's a Mao
poster in the background—
hough from Hong Kong
which he reached in Novembeen, he want it alone. He
became ill in Peking, and had
to go into hought for a few
days. He was known in the
the state of the state of the
days. He was known in the
the state of the state of the
days. He was known in the
the state of the state of the
days. He was known in the
the state of the state
to reign pen driver."

He took a grim satisfaction
in mishaps. Those met on the
way included an uneasy stay
in Vienna without a hotel
round in without a hotel
round in the state
in Vienna without a hotel
round in the state
to state of the state
them for CIA agents.
Interviewed by the South
China Morning Post on bis
sarvival in Hong Kong, Perelman showed a certain tightlipped understatement in
saying that the trip had been
'uphill." 'intermational lorries moved very fast down
to the state of the state of the
drivers of India and Iran se
robably the widest they had
enountered. The car survived—though gradually salencountered. The Car wived—though gradually all valve to keep my cool. "Have you and Luna by any remote chance discussed this ambition of yours." No, and I'll rell you why no," and the second of the



I figured that if the car broke down somewhere, those seven-league boots could always stride to the nearest garage for help. Initially, there was no response from Jevons to my message. Then one morning there arrived from his London office a book their stricts of the strict of the s

any modern counterpart seem infamile.

As if to dispel any doubt I might have as to his motive in sending me the book, Jevous had enclosed a three-line note. It read: "This much hotter idea for one in the sending me to be send to the sending to peak in the sending to peak in the sending to the sending to

as plain as the nose on your face. What I mean is, you sent him such a rave about me that he's turning it into a major assignment. It's too, too fab."

So it seemed to me also in the first flush of intoxication with the plan, but when the dazzle subsided, certain salient problems emerged. Two adults entryly devoid of skill in narturing a motor very continuated mile spin through Europe and Aua in a thirty-year-old vintage car. Spare parts for same being unobtainable en route, these would have

from ripening, m relationship with Goody was mildewing

to be carried along, together with special tyres, extra petrol and oil, camping equipment, emergency rations, and luggage. In a car whose total capacity was four rations, and luggage. In a car whose total capacity was four this was manifestly impossible. There was one solution, though —that we be provided with a backup car containing the essentials and driven by some qualified robot, which would follow at a leisurely pace and aid us in the event of crist.

The control of crists are contained to the control of crists and crists are contained to the control of crists. The control of crists are control of crists are control of crists. I not only had to radiate enthusiasm for his idea but deny it could succeed without the support car. I must have walked the tright rope, because he replied that British Leyland, swooning

From Peking, Perelman was flown home to America in December. Nine months later, still in the process of recounting his adventures on the road to Peking, he died.

the publicity value of the exploit, was prepared to furnish its longest Land Rever, squipped with winches, cinches, and mechanism of the control of the cont

lodgings which Fate served up to thems.

Asked about his reason for the trip, this strange seal to conquer wast continents by old - style motoring, the humourist admitted to some puzzlement. He recalled that three lady acquaintances had thrown the challenging question at him on his departure from New York: "Sidney, do you really know what you're the stranger of the puzzlement of the puzzlement of the trip of the haven't really got that much time to launch into philosophical discussions."

Friends of Persiman used raunch into panisospinca unsussions."
Friends of Persiman used
to conclude that he liked
keeping on the move as a way
of escape from something or
other, not very well-defined.
He sliso liked to set himself a
sort of tragis-conity setting
whether it was really setting
whether it was really the that
of laughts. Somehow, he
invariably found them.

Kroup Rokiem Decelman was

to transit, and the like, it was mid-August before I was about to depart for London, with my fair companion due to follow to depart for London, with my fair companion due to follow to depart for London, with my fair companion due to follow the land to depart the land to depart the land to depart the land to depart the land t

print.

By the next morning, esough stam had whitefed out of my ears to that I became reasonably coherent, and I phone of the control of the

ENTERTAINMENTS GUIDE

Our critics' selection of what's on in the Arts this week

THEATRE

LONDON

Alberto y Lost Trios Paranolas
Never Mind the Bullock.
Play idea for short panto their the
Alpha idea for short panto their
harough modern pop attitudes as
appagare wreteded by unnatura
Darpagare wreteded by unnatura
barpagare wreteded by unnature
Occasional, fun, but mostly a
barre mixture of core, emetle
barre mixture of core, emetle
paranological
preformed—and with little must
preformed—and with little must
of finite! Siega in two years ago
of finite! Siega in two years ago
An Evening with Tommy Steel

An Evening with Tommy Steele, One-man show for the sentimental, (Prince of Walns 930 8681) (Prince of Wales 930 8681)
Angle, Bouncing Broadway musical based on vintage American atrin-cartoon (Victoria Palace

834 1317). As You Like H. Sturdy Shakespeare in converted Victorian church (St George's Tufnell Park, Thurs-Sat 607 1128). ok very like the Beatles, astoria 439 8031).

Astoria 439 8031).

fodies by James Saunders. This is
play about the meaning of life
nd the purpose of art. Dinsdale
anden gets horribly drunk.

Ambassador 836 1171.)

(Ambassador 836 1171.)
Can You Hear Me Ai the Back?
by Brian Clark. Sententious and
fritating play about town
planning. Kwalitee cast beefed by
Peter Barkworth and Hannah
Guedon. (Piccadilly 437 4506.)



Thurs; 928 2252.)
Death Trap by Ira Levin. Reat frights and some laughs in self-adoring thriller. If you can bear Gareth Hunt's American scient. (Garrick 836 4601.) accent. [Carrick 816 460]
Dirty Linen by Tom Stoppard,
Punny-vil ageing—face about
MPs. (Arts 836 2132.)
Evita by Andrew Lloyd-Webber
and Tim Rice. Spectacular musical
dedicated to the hort/libe Eva
Peron. [Prince Edward 437 657.)

J.P.
Happy Birthday, Julia Foster
stars in comedy from the French
of Marc Camoletti adapted by
Beverley Cross of "Boeing.
Boeing " fame. (Apollo 437 2663.)

Hampstead 794 0238.)

Ipi-Tombi directed by Bertha

Egnes. African musical speciacular

most remarkable for brown

buttocks and breasts (Whitehall

930 6922).

buttocke and breass (Whitehalt 2016 6922).

Journal Charles of the Anders of the Real Profession of the Real Profe

Mayakovsky by Stefan Schütz. Peter Attard and Robin Soans share the title role in this new East German satire on Stallnism versus the artist. (Half Moon 430 465).

489 6465).
Middle Age Spread by Roger Hall.
Indifferent comedy of Scarborough school. Richard Briers does most of the work. (Lyric 437 3686).
My Fair Lady by Lerner & Lorwe. Tony Britton and Liz Robertson star in excallant revival. Top-class choreography by Gillian Lynué. (Adelphit 28 7611.)

(Addiphi Ré 7611.)
Nathville New York, Verse by
Ogden Nash. Devised and presented
by the Observer's thestire critic,
Köbert Cushman (King's Head
'256 1916.)
Night and Day by Tom Stoppard,
Night and Day by Tom Stoppard,
in play discussing freedom of Press
vs. unions. (Phoems 336 2294).
No Sex, Piesse-We're British by

by Japanese but with little else in its favour (Strand 835 2600). its Leour (Strand 835 2000). Not New Barling, Ray Conney and John Chapman's deli and demented face needs more steam in tha first half; the excellent Leslie Phillips thoused move faster and Savoy 856 8589). JP.
Oli Calcutal Lusty pregnantor of generation of sex shows, dodders into final weeks. Rode words by K. Tynan, J. Lennon and Company (Dutchess 836 8245).

Company (Duthess 836 8283).
Olivert by Llonel Bart with George
Layton and Helen Shapiro. The
current state of this production is
pretty good, although and shalling
and visibility, ecolor sometime to
diffice. An enjoyable musical.
(Albery 836 3578).

(Alberty 836 3578).
Once in a Litetime by Moss Hart and George S, Kudman. The pop bit of the Aldwych season.
Massive line-up of RSC talent.
Trevor Num directs, Gillian Lynne gets them dancing, Strongly recommended for an evenion.
(Aldwych Wed-Thure, 386 4604).

Rookery Neok by Ben Travers. Directed by Frank Dunlop, this ropey old farce contains precisely one funny performance by Andrew Robertson (Her Majesty's 930 6666).

930 6666). Songbook. Captivating spoof of American musicals from Twensies to Fifties; Anton Rodgers and Gemms Craven shine. (Globe 437 1392). J.P.

Performance of the provider at The Crucifer of Blood by Paul Glovanni. Preposterous melodrama starring Gerald Harper as Sherlock

King and I. Popular mutical ving the original Yul Brynner. Hadium 437 7373).

(Palladium 437 3233).
The Last of the Red-Hot Lovers by Neil Simon. Les Montague ralls to make it with Busan Engel, Georgina Hale and Bridget Turner (Criterion 930 3216).
The Mousetrap by Agatha Christic, Somehow this murder story is not very fitchitening or intriguing. (St Martini, 485 1443.)

(St Martin's, 185 1443.)
The Rocky Hortor Show.
Yesterday's shocker still packs
them in (Comedy 530 2575).
The Primary English Class by
Israel Horosit. Strange, ciever it
unstatisting American comedy.
Strong cast. (Orange Tree,
Bitchmond 545 3633).

The Undertaking, Funeral comedy by Trevor Baxter: Kenneth Williams does his best. (Fortune 836 2238.)

928 2232).
When We Are Married by J. B. Priestley. Lavish revival of a very thin Yorkshire consecutive Leavis Proceedings of the Transport of (Lytterion; Pri-sat; 328 236.)
Wilfred by Peter Tinniswood.
Often very fainty, this study of a man, his, dog, his girlfriend, his mother and his fantasy life is well directed by Mike Bradwell. (Bush 743 338.)

DANCE

eves. Thurs to Sat; His Majesty's, Aberdeen 0224 28080). Noethern Ballet Theatre in the Straust Cinderella with an unfamiliar social setting for the story (mats and ever, Thore to Sat; Royal Northern College of Music, Manchester 061 272 of

from Gandhara Detter known perhaps to the British as the North West frontier). (Salashus North West frontier). (Salashus Anglia, Noreich, Salashus contractured East Anglia, Noreich, Salashus constructions activations activations activations activated with light, movement and even sound. Technologically sophisticated but unsusually approachable and unfraphiening. (Monys Art Callery, Liandedlo, Pool. Interestations, Marcia, Pool. Pool.

Oscolyb Alt Castery, Annual Convertible And Castery, Annual Castery of highly personal Western European Justings from the 1860 to 1903 or so, ranging from Casteria and Casteria Caster Rackham. Wonderful of much leved artist's described as "Court Painter as Oberon and Queen a" not to mention Hams an Andersen, and Wind in Illows (Graves Art Gallery,

Severe: Porclain from the Rayal Collection. A glittering new exhibition displays the finest collection of fath century Severe porcelain in the world, formed by the Prince Regent (Queen's Galler Buckingham Palace).

the period of the period (Hayward).

MUSIC

Reval Opers Interious mid-ingual revision of Johann Birman's Die Fledermann with Hermann Preys, Robert Tarr, Ann Kwan, Preys, Robert Tarr, Ann Kwan, Seedy Frusty Convent Carden, Wed, Priz 240 10061, F.A. END New Southern of Hender's Janet Baker, Valerie Masseron, Janet Baker, Valerie Masseron, Sati, Alio J. Strausty charmer, Sati, Alio J. Strausty charmer, Seedy Company of the Convention of the Night in Vinner, Excellently and, Sati, Alio J. Strausty charmer, See Jakel, F.A.

Do Juli.

D'ory Carte at Sadier's Wells in swalisonal Gilbert and Sullivan season (187 1872).

ENO North in Leeds. New production by Wendy Tays of The Merry Widew, with Elizabeth Conductin Dated Libord Joseph Carte Merry Widew, with Elizabeth Conductin Dated Libord Joseph Carte (Fri). Also Humperdinsk's perennial Hamel Indi Gevel (Satt Grand Theories, Leeds Old 6001) 1012 (2011) 4000 1115. Ousen Elizabeth Hall, Camera Lysy Gatasd and Yebudi Menui in two contexts: Vivald's Fe-Seasoni, Rossini, Bartok (The Brahms B Bat sexuet, Haydin Tchaikovsky (Fr.), Kasuka

costumes 528 2151

(955 244).

George Melly. Britain's veteran blues entertainer is back for his customary holding season—and is his customary holding season—and is his customary ebuilisent form (Ronnie Scott's Cital). Mos-Satt, Les Sayer. New a mainiferant popure, with his songs to meath—you can catch his best Hammersmith Odenet, London, show tomorrow and ha's at Reradinghase Odenon from Thursday for form raights.

painfully comic, at leavement.

(AA Academy,

La Cage sas Faites, Gay fitm,)

both sense of the wird,

about nightchib owner and

dray-queen main onlight in

respectable erreights in fool

prospectable in leave—Kanaria

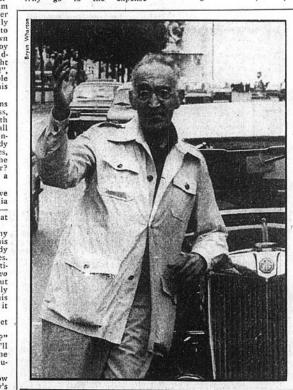
Malinary's boiletown, size-de
marriage of the company of the company

Alien. The Maris Celevic of deep space, a framp state-freighter, invaded by mutating propany of monster? egg, indirected by company age, and Certarised by figurers. Wasser, heroice as striking as her same, quives at servicing superior of the propagation produced pion ashoring avenous special effects? (X. Geten, Leichners Square).



ART

Cyprus BC: 7000 Years of History. Well displayed series of grahaslogical finds from Cyprus, the crostrond of Fost and West; all the material is pre-Christian. (New Wing Gallery, British



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PERELMAN PREPARED, WITH MG

• THIS is the car-here in

Paris, with its intrepid owner -in which S. J. Perelman set out from Paris for Peking; his MG tourer bought new in 1949 and treasured ever since. It had a soft top; moreover and very importantly for Perelman it had (or so he was convinced) windows made out of the rarer portions of Russian sturgeon. The plan was to take the route of the 1907 intercontinental car race from Peking to Paris, but Perelman, ever original, wanted to cover the route backwards; or more precisely, in reverse order though not in reverse-to France, Italy, Yugoslavia, Bulgaria, Turkey, Iran, India, Burma, and then by boat to Hong Kong and on into China to Canton and Peking. The little car was filled with Perelman and two experts on old MGs, a trailer was filled with spare parts for the car and spare food for the expedition. They survived floods and food poisoning; the car survived several operations en route.

. . . and then they drove to China Th En lan vel sce of tak

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