"Some women who love brush the stars with their shoulders, they bring a touch of Heaven into the dreariest life, they smooth life's wrinkles and chase fear and doubt into night" (p. 83). These examples are perhaps sufficient to suggest the novel's tone and point of view.

The book of 285 pages was published at 7*s*.6*d*. in early 1934 by Lincoln Williams Ltd., a short-lived London publisher with offices at 19 Adam Street (and was printed by the Clock House Press of Hoddesdon). It may have been available in late 1933, for it is included in the publisher's advertisement in *The Bookman* for December 1933. The Lincoln Williams firm was active for only three years, from 1932 to 1935, when financial problems brought about its end. It went into administration in July 1935, following a petition from Amy Gilmour, author of a novel called *The Lure of Islam*, which the firm had published in 1933; and the winding-up order is dated 20 August 1935. I am aware of fifty titles with the Lincoln Williams imprint during those years, and they encompass a wide variety of books, ranging from reference books on cricket and books of practical advice to biographies, memoirs, travel writing, historical studies, poetry, and fiction. It seems likely that many of them were paid for by their authors.

The dust-jacket for *The Fall of the Titan* (known from Richard Landon's copy) lists twelve other novels, with titles like *The Seal of Love*, *Hearts Adrift*, and *Noonday Devil*. It carries on the front an illustration by H. W. Perl (1897-1952), the famous (and much collected) artist of pulp-fiction covers, who did other Lincoln Williams jackets as well. No information about the author is given, and the blurb consists of only two phrases: "A powerful story of ambition, intrigue, love and disaster. A novel to put into the hands of thinking young people."

On 5 April 1934 the *Times Literary Supplement* included the book in its section of brief notices of "New Books and Reprints" (pp. 245-46). The short review is worth quoting in full:

> In a style so stilted and sententious as to read almost like a parody, the author tells the story of one Silas Burney, a bold bad Labour leader, who, despite the fact he had robbed his employer, left his wife and children to starve, seduced a housemaid, and trifled with the affections of a baronet's daughter, becomes a power in the land and is confidently spoken of as the coming Prime Minister. There is, however, as we are reminded in capital letters, "something in the world that works against a bad man." The "Titan" crashes, and is made to see the error of his ways as the result of a remarkable dying speech by the housemaid which, starting with an impassioned eulogy of Cobden, Bright and free trade, ends up by warning him that "bankruptcy and death are the final heirs of imposture and make-belief."

This review is notable in two ways: the deftness of its plot summary and the perceptiveness of its suggestion that the book might be a parody. The *TLS* historical archive does not give the names of the authors of brief reviews of this kind. But these two points invite the speculation that the review might have been written by Carter himself (if he wrote the book) as a way of instructing readers to treat the book as a parody. (Many years later he wrote a review of his *ABC for Book-Collectors*.) Although he did not become a regular reviewer for the *TLS* until 1936, he had already published a signed article there (on Byron in the 27 April and 4 May 1933 issues) as well as a few letters, and he was already involved, with several others, in reinvigorating the *TLS* back page as a bibliographical forum.