

The Pendragon Legend by Antal Szerb tr by Len Rix Pushkin Press, £799

The pleasureseeking Hungarian

scholar János Bátky meets the Earl of Gwynedd at a London soirée. Their common interest in mysticism and the Earl's subsequent invitation to the family seat in north Wales marks the beginning of this detective story, gothic novel and social satire. Written with great wit and a lightness of touch, The Pendragon Legend is deliberately absurd: an eccentric aristocrat working in a secret lab, a midnight rider seeking vengeance, and a woman so beautiful she leads men to suicide are just some of the elements thrown into this delightful novel. lo Caird DAILY TELEGRAPH

13/10/07