

WILKIE COLLINS SOCIETY
NEWSLETTER
Number 1

ANNOUNCEMENTS

"...there, as if it had that moment sprung out of the earth or dropped from the heaven--stood the figure of a solitary Woman, dressed from head to foot in white garments •• •"

William Clarke, a. Society member in London, writes:

A new short biography of Wilkie Collins is in preparation by William Clarke in London. He is concentrating on Collins' rather elusive private life. Mr. Clarke hopes that readers may be able to help him on two points, one specific, one general:

1. Where is the diary and commonplace book of his father, William Collins, which was sold at Sotheby Parke Bernet in New York in 1948 or 1949?
2. Does any reader have any information about correspondence, relating to Caroline Graves and Martha (Rudd) Dawson, held privately?

He can be reached at the following address:

37 Park Vista
Greenwich
London S.E. 10
England

Andrew Gasson, also of London, is presently working on an analytical bibliography of Collins' works.

Benjamin Franklin Fisher IV, of the University of Mississippi, is working on an edition of Wilkie Collins' plays. He is also writing a bibliographic essay for the Society's prospective journal; the essay will discuss items published since 1976, the year at which Kirk H. Beetz's bibliography stops. If you have had something published which relates to Collins and would like Professor Fisher to include it in his essay, please send him a copy:

Department of English
University of Mississippi
University,
Mississippi 38677

MORE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thomas D. Clareson, of the College of Wooster, is writing an extensive biography of Charles Reade. He is interested in any information about Reade, especially about his relationship with Wilkie Collins. He may be reached at:

Box 3186
The College of Wooster
Wooster,
Ohio 44691

Kirk H. Beetz, of the University of California, Davis, has two essays on Collins forthcoming. One is titled, "Wilkie Collins and The Leader: With a List of Newly Identified Works of Wilkie Collins," and will appear in Victorian Periodicals Review in 1981. The other is titled, "The Other Fiction of Wilkie Collins: the Dover Editions," and will appear in University of Mississippi Studies in English. Dr. Beetz also wishes to announce his work on The Collected Letters of Wilkie Collins. Although this project is nearing completion, he remains interested in information about the locations of letters--especially in small or private collections. He may be reached at:

813 Radcliffe Drive
Davis,
California 95616

A TIDBIT

The American Heritage Dictionary (hardbound "New College Edition") uses the following phrase from The Woman in White to help define the word patience:

"This is the story of what a woman's patience can endure •• •"

NEWS

"I loved her.

"Ah! how well I know all the sadness and all the mockery that is contained in those three words."

The Society presently does not have a large enough membership to satisfy the Modern Language Association of American, thus making unlikely the possibility of the society being recognized in time to secure a meeting room at the 1981 convention in New York. All members are asked to spread the word of our Society to prospective members. Recognition can still come in time for the 1982 convention.

The proposed Society Journal is still scheduled to appear in the late summer. Lack of funds places the publication in

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jeopardy. Ideally, the Journal would include reviews, notes, and announcements, as well as an essay or two. For the present only Professor Fisher's bibliographic essay is scheduled to appear. However, the Society is young and growing and its members can hope for better times once it has matured. Inquiries about possible reviews should be sent to Dr. Beetz.

One of the Society's members has suggested that the Society dispense with the notion of publishing a journal, arguing that there are already too many such publications. What do the rest of you think? Please write to one of the Society's officers (listed below).

The 100th anniversary of Wilkie Collins' death is in 1989. Is it too early to begin thinking about an event to mark the year?

ABOUT THE NEWSLETTER

"The thought leaped through me, like the fire leaping out of the shattered skylight."

The newsletter will appear irregularly, whenever enough material to fill it is in the president's files. Announcements of projects and publications are solicited from the Society's membership, in order to provide publicity the activities of members. Very short notes (see A TIDBIT, above) and reasonably brief queries are welcome. Replies or queries directed at specific members should be directed to the president or secretary whenever member addresses are not provided.

Remember, part of the Society's objectives is to pass the word around about work related to Collins. If you are working on something which might interest Society members, please let notice of it be included in the Newsletter.

OFFICERS

"I entered into no sordid particulars, in discussing this part of the subject."

President: Kirk H. Beetz
813 Radcliffe Drive
Davis,
California 95616
USA

Secretary: Andrew Gasson
3 Merton House
36 Belsize Park
London N.W.3. 4EA
England

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