



THE WILKIE COLLINS SOCIETY

PRESIDENT

Kirk Beetz
1307 'F' Street
Davis
California 95616
U.S.A.

SECRETARY

Andrew Gasson
3 Merton House
36 Belsize Park
London NW3 4EA
England

U.K. NEWSLETTER

SPRING 1985

Dear Member,

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Enclosed with this Newsletter is your Membership Renewal Notice. Regrettably, the 1985 subscription has to be raised to £7.50. This is entirely due to the fact that the Journal is produced in the United States and the present low exchange rate means that its cost to the U.K. will be considerably increased.

PROSPECTIVE MEETING

Sue Lonoff seeks participants in a possible Special Session for the December 1985 Convention of the Modern Language Association in America. Her proposed topic is "Wilkie Collins: New Directions."

Please write to her at:

Sue Lonoff
Preceptor
Expository Writing
Harvard University
Harvard Union 3rd Floor
12 Quincy Street
Cambridge
Massachusetts 02138
U.S.A.

She has an April deadline for her proposal so please write to Dr Lonoff soon.

MLA MEMBERSHIP

Membership of the Modern Language Association of America is not necessary for those who simply wish to attend one of its Special Sessions, but those who wish to deliver papers must be members.

If you are interested in joining the MLA or in simply learning more about it, send your enquiry to:

Members Services
Modern Language Association
62 Fifth Avenue
New York
New York 10011
U.S.A.

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MLA INTERNATIONAL BIBLIOGRAPHY

Finally, on the subject of the MLA, we have recently been informed that the Wilkie Collins Society Journal has been added to the Master List of Periodicals of the MLA International Bibliography. It has officially been assigned the acronym WCSJ.

CALL FOR ARTICLES

The manuscripts for Wilkie Collins's novels, stories, and plays are scattered - often in fragments - in libraries and private collections around the world. Kirk Beetz, the editor of the Wilkie Collins Society Journal (1307 'F' Street, Davis, California 95616), requests members who know of the location of any of Collins's literary manuscripts to submit essays describing where they may be found (the Princeton University Library, for instance) and what state they are in. Please focus on just one library or private collection. Such an article need not be long - although it could be.

WILKIE COLLINS AND NINETEENTH CENTURY PSYCHOLOGY

Jenny Taylor, of the University of Bradford, writes that she has recently completed a Ph. D thesis on 'Wilkie Collins and Nineteenth Century Psychology: Cultural Significance and Fictional Forms'. It looks particularly at "Collins's representation of madness but also at his use of competing psychological paradigms in the context of contemporary theory; and makes use of modern literary theory in analysis of the narrative structures as well as explicit thematic concerns". She hopes that the thesis will be published before too long, and would be very interested to hear of anyone that might be working in a similar area.

VICTORIAN STUDIES (Summer 1984 Vol 27 No 4)

In addition to the Wilkie Collins Society Journal, the Victorian Studies Bibliography for 1983 lists the following works relating to Collins:

Barickman Richard, Susan MacDonald, & Myra Stark. Corrupt Relations: Dickens, Thackeray, Trollope, Collins, and the Victorian Sexual System. NY: Columbia UP, 1982 285pp

Gates, David P. "Tracing the Thread: The Image of the Labyrinth in Selected Novels by Wilkie Collins, Charles Dickens and Joseph Sheridan Le Fanu." DAI 43:2678A

Leavy, Barbara Fass. "Wilkie Collins's Cinderella: The History of Psychology and The Woman in White." DSA 10 (1982):91-141

Meckier, Jerome. "Wilkie Collins's The Woman in White: Providence Against the Evils of Propriety." JBS 22, 1 (1982): 104-26.

Most, Glenn W., & William w. Stowe, -eds. The Poetics of Murder: Detective Fiction and Literary Theory. San Diego, CA: Harcourt. 394 pp.

From the same issue (pp 435-460), members may also be interested in Anthea Trodd's The Policeman and The Lady: Significant Encounters in Mid-Victorian Fiction. The Moonstone and Constance Kent Road Case are discussed in detail but also mentioned are Armadale and The Biter Bit.

LITERARY LODGINGS

Published at the end of 1984, Literary Lodgings by Elaine Borish (Constable, £9.95) features a chapter on Wilkie Collins and the Royal Hotel Whitby, where he went to stay with Caroline Graves in 1861 in order to work on No Name. Alas, the alleged portrait of Wilkie on p 223 is in fact that of his father, William Collins!

MEMBERS WANTS

Returning to No Name, Virginia Blain (c/o School of English & Linguistics, Macquarie University, North Ryde, Sydney NSW 2113, Australia) is still seeking any one volume edition of this title published prior to about 1880 for the new edition she is currently preparing for the Oxford University Press. The text must be complete and in good order but the condition of the binding is unimportant.

Andrew Gasson is looking for The Dead Secret and Hide and Seek in the Chatto and Windus edition in original green cloth.

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Andrew Gasson