



THE WILKIE COLLINS SOCIETY

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U.K. NEWSLETTER

WINTER 1987 /88

Dear Member,

You should by now have received your copy of the latest Journal (Vol VI) 1986. As you will have realized, this was considerably delayed because of difficulties encountered in the States by the editor, Kirk Beetz. To bring future issues up to date, it has been decided to combine those for 1987 and 1988 into a single volume. It is hoped that this will then enable a 1989 Centenary Edition to be published on schedule.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

The enclosed Subscription Notice for £7.00 is thus for the years 1987 and 1988 combined. Those members who kindly paid the 1987 subscription in advance of a formal request are therefore paid up until the end of 1988.

NEWS FROM MEMBERS AND CORRESPONDENCE

It was anticipated that Laurence Ince's interesting essay "Wilkie Collins: The Intimacies of the Novels" in Volume VI of the Journal would prove controversial and it has indeed evoked a response from William Clarke, whose own biography of Collins is shortly to be published. His initial reply is enclosed with this Newsletter together with further ideas from Laurence Ince. However, the final word for the moment must remain with Mr Clarke as for the first time he is now able to reveal his own personal connexion with the descendants of Wilkie Collins.

FORTHCOMING WORKS

With the Collins centenary fast approaching, several new publications are in the pipeline.

a) As mentioned above, William Clarke of Greenwich has written a new Biography; The Secret Life of Wilkie Collins. This is due to be published in London during June 1998 by Allison and Busby (part of W.H. Allen). It will undoubtedly be of great interest to all Collins enthusiasts as it is likely to shed much light on

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previously obscure aspects of his life. The anticipated price is £14.95 and the Society is currently negotiating with the publishers to obtain a trade discount for members. Further details will be announced in due course.

b) Kirk Beetz of California has been working on Collins's letters for several years and Oxford are now expected to publish a Selected Edition during 1989.

c) Catherine Peters of Oxford is writing a full scale critical Biography of Collins which will be published by Secker and Warburg. She is also working on a New Edition of Armada, to be published by Oxford University Press in the World's Classic series.

d) Insights. Macmillan Press have announced a New Series associated with the Lumiere Press. It is being launched with the title Masters of the Nineteenth Century and the first volume contains nine essays, including one by Society Member, Nicholas Rance. Further details are enclosed together with a copy of the attractive Woman in White poster used for The Middlesex Polytechnic's recent conference on this subject.

RECENT EDITIONS

No Name

Virginia Blain's newly edited version of No Name has now been published by Oxford University Press in the World's Classics series. This is based on the 1864 one volume edition with the original frontispiece illustration by Millais. • It also contains her new introduction together with numerous notes on the text. A review of this edition should appear in the next issue of The Journal.

A Rogue's Life

Apart from the recently issued Dover Press edition of A Rogue's Life - reviewed by Robert Ashley in Volume VI of The Journal - John Sutton Publishing reprinted their own issue of this title during 1987. They have also published The Biter Bit (which includes Mad Monkton, Gabriel's Marriage and The Lady of Glenwith Grange).

WANTS LIST

Richard Beaton of Avenue de l'Armee 50, 1040 Bruxelles is looking for any edition of Poor Miss Finch and The Fallen Leaves.

TITLES AVAILABLE

The latest catalogue from Valentine Books has several early but mainly rebound editions of Collins titles. Their address is 12 Summerhouse Road, London N16 0NA (01-254 4225).

Recent catalogues from Jarndyce (46 Great Russell Street, London WC1B 3PE - 01-631 4220) have also featured some uncommon titles.

VICTORIAN STUDIES (Summer 1987 Vol. 30, No. 4)

The Victorian Studies Bibliography for 1986 lists the following works relating to Collins;

Lonoff, S. Wilkie Collins and His Victorian Readers...
See VB 1983, 585.
Rev.. by S. Smith in MLR 81 :457-58.

Miller, D.A. "Cage aux folles:Sensation/and Gender in Wilkie Collins's The Woman in White." Representations 14:107-36.

Purton, Valerie. "Dickens and Collins:The Rape of the Sentimental Heroine." Ariel E 16, 1(1985): 77-89.

CALL FOR ARTICLES

As usual Kirk Beetz, in his capacity of Editor of The Journal would be interested to receive any articles or essays for publication in both the 1988 and '89 editions. Please write to him direct at: 1307 'F' Street, Davis, California 95616, U.S.A.

Andrew Gasson.