



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

Summer 1988

Dear Member,

FORTHCOMING WORKS

The Secret Life Of Wilkie Collins

William Clarke's eagerly awaited biography "The Secret Life of Wilkie Collins" was published on August 1st at £14.95. A fair amount of publicity has already been generated about this, including a full page article in the Independent of Saturday July 23rd. Mr. Clarke and the Society have made arrangements to provide members with signed copies of the book at the author's discount price of £9.95. To take advantage of this, please write directly, mentioning membership of the Society, to Customer Sales, Allison & Busby, 44 Hill Street, London W1X 8LB.

The Arabian Nights in English Literature

A long-standing member of the Society, Peter L. Caracciolo writes: 'Arabian stories have stirred the imagination of British writers since Chaucer's day. In the tales of Scheherazade, too, are some of the origins of genres such as the novel, detective and science fiction; thence, also have come influences on pantomimes, opera and film, the Eastern store house supplying images for widely different attitudes: patriarchal, suffragette, imperialist revolutionary, Christian and otherwise. 'Wilkie Collins and the Ladies of Baghdad or the Sleeper Awakened' is the title of one of the essays that Peter Caracciolo has contributed to the Arabian Nights in English Literature, a profusely illustrated collection of widely ranging studies by diverse hands which he has edited and MacMillan will publish this autumn.'

THE 1989 CENTENARY

Various suggestions are being made as to how the fast approaching Collins Centenary should be marked. There is a possibility of a Centenary Conference to be organised by Professor Terry of The Department of English, University of Victoria, Canada. This, however, is at the early stages of planning. Another idea is for a Centenary Dinner to be held at a Collins related venue in London.

cont/d.....



-2-

I should be pleased to receive any further suggestions from members, with an indication of whether they would prefer

- a) September 23rd, or if another time of year is better.
- b) A formal or informal gathering.

Theatre Production of The Woman in White

According to the press, the Greenwich Theatre will be **staging a** revival of The Woman in White in December this year.

The Journal

Kirk Beetz has written to say that the combined 1987/1988 Journal is about to go to the press in the States. This will be distributed as soon as it is available in the U.K.

WANTS LIST

B.Tootell of 12 Belvedere Grove, London SW19 is looking for any reasonable, 1900ish copies of the following titles: Man and Wife, Miss or Mrs?, The New Magdalen, The Black Robe, Heart and Science, A Rogue's Life, The Evil Genius, Little Novels, The Legacy of Gain, The Two Destinies, The Haunted Hotel, Antonina and The Law and the Lady.

ANDREW GASSON