



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 NWJ 4EA
ENGLAND.

UK NEWSLETTER

SPRING/SUMMER 1991

PRODUCTION OF THE FROZEN DEEP

The first reason for this Newsletter is the forthcoming play reading by the Anvil group of The Frozen Deep. This will take place at the Lyric studio, Hammersmith, King street, London, W.6 on Sunday June 16th at 7.30 p.m. I don't have a precise date, but this must be the first public performance for many years. In order to gain an idea of numbers it would be useful if members could let me know if they intend to come, using the tear-off slip on the next page. Guests will also be very welcome.

PUBLICATIONS

Wilkie Collins and Other Sensation Novelists by member Nicholas Rance has recently been published by Macmillan. The usual cost is 35 but members of the Society can obtain copies with a special 25% WCS discount at 26.25 plus 1.50 p.& p. The enclosed order form with remittance should be sent direct to Helen Brown of Macmillan.

(N.B. This offer only applies to the UK and Europe).

Published by St Martin's Press, New York (at \$17.95) is The Detective and Mr. Dickens, Being an Account of the Macbeth Murders and the Strange Events surrounding them - A Secret Victorian Journal Attributed to Wilkie Collins and Edited by William J. Palmer (ISBN 0-312-05073-9). It is, to quote the blurb, "Set largely during April and May of 1851, exploring the relationship of Dickens and Collins with Inspector William Field of the Metropolitan Protectives of London, one of the first professional detectives". Dickens scholars may also recognise Mike Slater and Katie Tillotson, also included in the cast of characters.

Full marks to Alan Sutton Publishing who continue to revive and keep in print at relatively modest cost several Collins's titles. Their latest publication is Heart and Science and they now have plans for The Woman in White and The Moonstone. A list of their books is enclosed.

Jenny Bourne Taylor, who wrote In the Secret Theatre of Home - Wilkie Collins, sensation narrative, & nineteenth-century psychology is currently working on a new edition of The Law and the Lady for Oxford University Press. This should appear towards the end of the year.

ALLIANCE OF LITERARY SOCIETIES

The Wilkie Collins Society continues to be affiliated to the Alliance of Literary Societies. The latest issue of the Chapter one Newsletter was distributed at their Annual General Meeting in April.

PUNCH CONFERENCE

"VICTORIAN PUNCH" - A Sesquicentennial Conference is being arranged for 12th-13th July 1991. For further details, contact Michael Slater of the Department of English, Birkbeck College, Malet Street, London, WC1E 7HX.

SHE LOVES AND LIES (Mr Lismore and the Widow)

The complete autograph manuscript of this short story which appeared in Volume I of Little Novels in 1887 is again for sale. It came up auction a year or so ago and fetched about half the current asking price. So anyone with the odd 27,500.00 to spare can purchase it from C.R. Johnson Rare Books, 21 Charlton Place, London, N1 8AQ (071-354 1077). It is item 81 in their Catalogue 32 which would be interesting to keep for the excellent description and for the illustrations of Collins and the text.

A POSSIBLE MEETING IN LONDON

There have been one or two suggestions for an informal meeting in London, possibly with a short talk. The last time we tried this support was rather poor (nearly non-existent), mainly because members are so widely spread around the country, not to mention the USA. However, I shall be happy to try again and arrange something - probably about mid October - if there seems to be sufficient interest. Please return the tear-off slip below to let me have an idea of possible support.

To Andrew Gasson
Wilkie Collins Society
3 Merton House
36 Belsize Park
London, NW3 4EA

I shall/ shall not be attending The Frozen Deep on June 16th.

I would/would not be interested in a London Meeting. I would prefer

- a) mid-week evening
- b) weekend evening
- c) weekend afternoon.

NAME (Block capitals) _____