

# THE WILKIE COLLINS SOCIETY



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**UK NEWSLETTER**

**SPRING 1993**

## **MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 1993**

The 1993 UK membership subscription has been held at £7.50. This is now due and should be sent to Robert Blackham at the above address.

## **JOURNAL INDEX**

Enclosed with this Newsletter is an index for the wcs Journal, 1981 - 1991. Longstanding members will have most of the earlier volumes. Regrettably, however, there are no back numbers available.

## **PUBLICATIONS**

Catherine Peters (Author of The King of Inventors) continues to be busy in the field of Collins. She has written the introduction to the recently published Everyman edition of The Moonstone, companion to the handsomely produced Woman in White in the same series. She has also edited Hide and Seek for OUP's World's Classics, due in Spring 1993.

Academic publishing continues to move at something less than the speed of light - but some of the papers of the 1989 Wilkie Collins Centenary Conference have apparently appeared in Dickens Studies Annual, 20 (1991). The remainder are still expected from AMS Press.

The Windings of the Labyrinth: Quest and structure in the major novels of Wilkie Collins by Peter Thoms (Ohio University Press, 1992; ISBN 0-8214-1039-3) is now available in the UK, price £34.20. (Copies can be ordered through Dillons). Its five main sections deal with Basil, Hide and Seek, The Dead Secret; The Woman in White; No Name; Armadale; and The Moonstone.

## **DICKENS AND THE GASKELL SOCIETY**

The Gaskell Society are holding a joint meeting with the Dickens Fellowship on Saturday November 6th at 2.15 p.m. at Francis Holland School, 39 Graham Terrace, London, S.W.1. Edward Preston is talking on 'Dickens and Elizabeth Gaskell' and the Gaskell Hon. Sec., Mrs Joan Leach, has kindly invited any interested members of the WCS.

The next meeting of The Dickens Fellowship is 'A Theatrical Evening with Charles Dickens' by Patricia Flower. This will be held at 7.00 p.m. at the London Welsh Association, 157 Grays Inn Road, London, W.C.1.

## **MISCELLANEOUS**

There are a few miscellaneous items, some of them omitted from previous Newsletters, with a peripheral Collins interest:

### **Offer from Staying off the Beaten Track**

This annual publication features places with literary associations at which visitors can stay for moderate prices. It can be ordered at a cost of £9.95 from Explore Britain, Alston, Cumbria, CA9 3SL (0434 381563). As a special offer, members of the Society will receive, free, 18 worth of vouchers to be used against the cost of accommodation.

### **The Writer's Handbook**

Details of the WCS, together with a listing of other literary Societies, will be included in The Writer's Handbook. This is now entering its seventh edition, with further details from the editor, Barry Turner, 45 Islington Park Street, London, N1 1QB (Tel; 071-226 7450)

### **Mystery Writers of America, Inc.**

The MWA (17 East 47th Street, 6th Floor, N.Y., NY 10017, Tel: 212- 888-8171) are preparing a database of Societies and Journals, including everyone from Wilkie to Sherlock, and from Dorothy L. Sayers to Edgar Wallace. There are even some U.S. writers!

### **Association of Independent Libraries**

Members of this association are all subscription libraries, founded between 1768 and 1841, before the public library service. They are distributed throughout the U.K., including, for example, The London Library and the Birmingham and Midland Institute (home of The Alliance of Literary Societies to which the WCS is affiliated). The Hon. Sec. is Mrs Janet Allan, The Portico Library, 57 Mosley Street, Manchester, M2 3HY. I have visited The Portico which is a fascinating place as well as holding several Collins titles.

### **Tennyson on Video**

PA Video Communications have produced a documentary film on the life and work of Tennyson entitled 'The Circle of the Hills'. It is available from 88 Vickers Lane, Louth, Lincolnshire, LN11 9PJ (Tel:0507 600064) at a cost of £18.45 including p & p.

### **Swansea, City of Literature**

The Arts Council has designated Swansea the British City of Literature in 1995. This will be the fourth in a series of year-long festivals related to the arts, similar to the role of Birmingham in the 1992 Year of Music. Further information is available from Tonia Kemp or Karisa Krcmar, Marketing and Communications Division, Singleton Street, Swansea, SA1 3QG, Tel: 0792 476666.

### **FORTHCOMING CATALOGUE**

Dickens specialist, Jarndyce, is planning to issue a catalogue on Collins some time during the Summer. Those wishing to receive a copy can contact them at 46 Great Russell Street, Bloomsbury, London, WC1 3PA, 071-631 4220.