



THE WILKIE COLLINS SOCIETY

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NEWSLETTER

WINTER 1995-1996

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 1996

The 1996 membership subscription is now due and should be sent to Louise Marchant at the above address. It has again been held at £7.50 for UK and European members and £10 for those outside of Europe. Payment should be made in Sterling.

JOINT MEETING WITH THE DICKENS FELLOWSHIP

The WCS and the Dickens Fellowship are planning a joint meeting for early in November 1996. Professor Michael Slater of Birkbeck College, author of several books on Dickens, will probably speak on the joint Collins and Dickens amateur theatricals, covering *The Lighthouse* and *The Frozen Deep*. Full details will be confirmed in the next Newsletter.

REVIEW OF TITLES IN PRINT

Last year's listing of Collins titles currently available has been brought up to date. As ever, if any member knows of any editions that may have been omitted, please let me know for future updates.

NEW PUBLICATIONS

Alan Sutton are nearing the end of their Collins programme, having successfully brought back into print the majority of his lesser known novels in their Pocket Classics Series. There are two new titles forthcoming in May 1996. The first is a single volume containing *The Frozen Deep* and *Mr Wray's Cash-Box*. *The Frozen Deep*, originally published in 1874, has remained out of print since the Chatto & Windus edition in 1915. *Mr Wray's Cash-Box* (1852) was reissued as part of a much larger anthology in 1991 but the new publication will make it much more accessible. The second title will be a new paperback edition of William Clarke's biography *The Secret Life of Wilkie Collins*. Originally published in 1988, this edition will include new information such as details of the Iolani manuscript recently discovered in New York.

THE LETTERS OF WILKIE COLLINS

We at last have firm good news about an edition of the letters of Wilkie Collins. Faith Clarke has given formal permission to the Macmillan Press to publish a collected edition of her great-grand father's letters. They will be edited by Professor William Baker of Northern Illinois University and by William Clarke who was invited to join him as co-editor. William Baker has published various articles on Collins, including 'The Manuscript of *No Name*' in *Studies in Bibliography* (Papers of the Bibliographical Society of the University of Virginia), Vol. 43, 1990. He is also well known for his work on George Eliot. William Clarke is the author of *The Secret Life of Wilkie Collins*. Macmillan hope to publish some time in 1997-98.

WILKIE COLLINS TO THE FOREFRONT

At long last fifteen papers presented at 1989 Wilkie Collins Centennial Conference at the University of Victoria, B.C. have appeared in print. They are published by AMS Press, Inc. (56 East 13th Street, New York, N.Y. 10003) under the title *Wilkie Collins to the Forefront: Some Reassessments*, edited by Nelson Smith and R. C. Terry (ISBN 0-404-64351-5). They are available in the U.K. from Eurospan, 3 Henrietta Street, London, WC2E 3LU (0171-240-0856) at £49.50.

EVERYONE IN DICKENS

Greenwood Press are publishing a three-volume scholarly reference collection devoted to the complete works of Charles Dickens. Entitled *Everyone in Dickens*, it is

compiled and edited by George Newlin. Further details of this comprehensive work as well as the Collins/Dickens relationship are contained in the enclosed leaflets.

TALKING BOOKS

The latest Collins addition to the world of recorded books is *The Haunted Hotel* by Complete Listener at £16.49. Still available are: *The Woman in White* in an abridged version read by Nigel Anthony, published by Penguin at £9.99; and an unabridged version by Cover to Cover at about £49. There is an abridged version of *The Moonstone* by Naxos at £8.49; the full recording with Ian Stewart and Patrick Tull costs £55.49. 'A Terribly Strange Bed' is included in *Classic Tales of Mystery and the Supernatural*. These are all available from various outlets, including the Talking Bookshop, 11 Wigmore Street, London, W.1., 0171-495-8799. In addition, many public libraries now loan recorded books. Ideal for lazy readers - and they are possibly the best antidote for traffic jams!

BOOKMARKS

We are enclosing a few of the recently produced WCS bookmarks. Apart from being useful, we hope they will help publicise the Society. If you would like any extra, they are available free of charge but please send a stamped addressed envelope.

LA BIBLIOTHÈQUE DES LITTÉRATURE POLICIÈRES. BILIPO

A new public library (BILIPO) devoted to the mystery novel has recently opened in Paris. It was created by the City of Paris to collect and preserve books, magazines, film posters and post cards relating to the mystery novel for the serious study of the genre by students, writers and historians. The library currently holds over 30,000 novels including 3,500 general reference books on historical aspects of the genre, bibliographies, espionage, criminology, etc. Much of the literature is in English.

BILIPO welcomes enquiries and comments, as well as donations of books and magazines. The aim of the library is to provide a centre for study; to organize expositions and workshops, and to publish critical studies of current and past literature on the subject of crime. Further details can be obtained from the head librarian, Catherine Chauchard.

JOURNAL OF VICTORIAN CULTURE

Leeds Centre for Victorian Studies is launching the new biannual *Journal of Victorian Culture*. This should appear for the first time in Spring 1996. The editorial board expect that the journal will become the central forum for academic exchange for the broad field of Victorian Studies in Britain. It will contain a listings/noticeboard section. Further information from Martin Hewitt of the Leeds Centre for Victorian Studies, School of Humanities and Cultural Studies, Trinity and All Saints, Brownberrie Lane, Leeds, LS18 5HD, (0113 283 7231).

ALLIANCE OF LITERARY SOCIETIES

The WCS continues to be affiliated to the Alliance of Literary Societies. They plan to hold the 1996 AGM and one day seminar in Birmingham on Saturday 20 April. The hosts this year will be the Houseman Society with talks about his life and works. All WCS members will be welcome to attend at a nominal charge of £1.00. Anyone interested should let me know.

SYMPOSIUM ON THE DETECTIVE STORY

The School of Advanced Study, University of London, is organizing a symposium on the Detective Story. It will be held at the Institute of Germanic Studies, 13-14th June. This international symposium will treat English, American, French, German, and (probably) Czech and South African detective fiction, and will include writers as well as scholars from a number of countries. The organizers are Martin Swales and Robert Vilain of the Institute of Germanic Studies, Annette Lavers of the Institute of Romance Studies and Warren Chernaik of the Centre for English Studies (Senate House, Malet Street, London, WC1E 7HU). The full programme is expected to be available in the spring.

KENSAL GREEN CEMETERY

Friends of Kensal Green Cemetery will be holding another open day during the summer. It will take place on Saturday 6 July between 11 a.m. and 4.30 p.m. and there will be the usual tours, talks and other attractions. Further information can be obtained from F.O.K.G.C., Harrow Road, London, W10 4RA.