



In a period when laughter has been difficult, he has made men laugh without shame. Frank Swinnerton

Question and Answer Column: - Answers are being withheld pending the receipt of questions.

LADY ETHEL WODEHOUSE, TWS, lovely and alert at 96, greeted guests at The Pierpont Morgan Library's Centenary Celebration in New York City on the evening of October 15th. Sir Plum's literary and theatrical career was thoroughly covered in the Wodehouse Exhibit, which will remain at The Morgan until January 10th, 1982. The exhibit is essentially the collection of James H. Heineman (he prefers Jimmy), augmented by items from the collections of Ella Palmer, David Jasen, and others. If you haven't seen it, and can, it is well worth a visit.

The New York Times, October 17th, carried an excellent article on the event. Besides Mary Blood and spouse, OM tallied 18 Plumies in attendance. Edward Duke's one-man show, "Jeeves Takes Charge," was presented at the celebration. The show was impressive, and the professionalism of Mr. Duke in his portrayal of several Woosterine characters was sure and deft.

"The Morgan," as we cosmopolites familiarly call The Pierpont Morgan Library, issued a superb catalog for the occasion. It is, without question, a requisite item for every Wodehouse collector from now on. It is P. G. Wodehouse - A Centenary Celebration - 1881-1981, edited by James H. Heineman and Donald R. Bensen. Published by The Pierpont Morgan Library and Oxford University Press, it contains 25 excellent essays about Plum and a comprehensive bibliography of his work. Quarto (9"x12"x1"), 197 pp. OM was assured that the catalog, and three other PGW books, may be ordered by mail. Prices shown here are in U.S. currency. For orders under \$50., send \$2. for shipping; between \$50. and \$100., send \$3. New York residents please enclose tax. Oversea members, please write to The Pierpont Morgan Library, 29 East 36th Street, New York, NY, 10016, USA, for info on shipping costs.

P. G. Wodehouse - A Centenary Celebration.....@ \$25.00

** Wodehouse at War, by Iain Sproat, M.P. Contains the complete record of WWII internee experience, incl. all the radio talks and the Intelligence report. Better than the NYTimes review.....\$9.95

Wodehouse on Crime, a selection of short stories edited by D. R. Bansen, with an introduction by that well-known sleuth, Isaac Asimov.....\$12.95

At this time, published only in the United Kingdom. As a favor to fellow Plumies, Barry Phelps has agreed to handle it (he would derive no profit from the transaction). Young Richard recently reviewed J.H.C. Morris' Thank You, Wodehouse. Published in both countreis.

The library at Dulwich College, Plum's alma mater, has been extensively renovated. It will reopen as The P.G.Wodehouse Library. In mid-December the students will (bless them) present "Jeeves," an Ayckbourn-Lloyd-Webber play last produced at the Haymarket Theatre, London. Question for our British Plumies: Why not initiate a student chapter at Dulwich? Reduced student rates, etc. Sounds logical to OM.

Statements for 1982 dues will be sent to all members with our January newsletter. This formality has been avoided hitherto with the result that about $\frac{1}{2}$ of our members are subsidizing the other $\frac{1}{2}$. Those who pay dues will receive new membership cards with 1982 boldly stamped in an appropriate space. Old mbrshp cards can be used as bookmarks in PGW books. Those who fail to pay shall be afflicted by severe seizures of melancholia, curable only by continuation of membership. OM is seeking a tax exemption status for TWS, which would allow dues and donations from U.S. members to be exempt from IRS tax.

* read: exemption. My steno has a severe headache.

** read: of Plum's WWII internee exp.

Doug Stow, president of our San Francisco Chapter, relates that "I once read a book (The Inimitable Jeeves, I think it was) on the top rack of a storage bin in the warehouse of a Sears-Roebuck store where I was laboring at the time. The warehouseman would deposit me there via forklift on his way to lunch and would liberate me on his way back. There I could eat my liverwurst and pickle sandwich and laugh out loud without disturbing my co-workers and their card games and chit-chat. He is a faithful companion wherever one happens to be, and I will be reading him the rest of my days." Doug is 30, a Michigan State grad, and has an antique shop in the North Beach section of San Francisco. The SF Chapter, initiated by Pauline Blanc, has sponsored two Wodehouse Exhibits, and observed its own Celebration on October 11th.

The Delaware Valley Chapter has two Wodehouse Exhibits to its credit; one, at Trenton State College, runs through November; the other, at Delaware Valley College, Doylestown, PA, opened November 9th, will remain through November. Both have received local publicity.

Wonderments: - Is it conceivable that Edward Alleyn (1566-1629), Elizabethan actor, producer, entrepreneur, contemporary of W. Shakespeare, and founder of The College of God's Gift, commonly called Dulwich College, exercises a subconscious influence on that school's students, at least one of whom became enamored of the Stage? No PGW biographers seem to have explored this question.....Why have literary critics of stature tended to ignore or deprecate authors of humorous works? (I asked him what he thought of P.G. Wodehouse, the enthusiasm for whom of some people I have never been able to understand...Edmund Wilson) Is it that they weren't properly brought up, or that their values have been warped during their passage through Life with its Sorrows, Life with its Tears? Why are most of Plum's book in print in England, but not in the United States? OM worries about these things.....

"I have just laid down a book and the caress of my hand was for the man who wrote it, for the great human sympathy of the man and his revealing gift to me through the book. I have never seen the man, do not know his outside, but I am intimately acquainted with him. His warmth is all about me. Insofar as I am capable, I am his kin." Robert Henri (U. S. painter, 1865-1927). Doesn't this describe your own empathy with Plum?

The list of abbreviations for the states making up the United States shown below is preferred by our postal service, and is used in preparing our membership lists. Members outside the U.S. may be puzzled by some Abbrs. So get out your handy-dandy atlas and see where NE and MS are located.

**FUSIAL
ABBREVIATIONS**

- AL Alabama
- AK Alaska
- AZ Arizona
- AR Arkansas
- CA California
- CO Colorado
- CT Connecticut
- DE Delaware
- DC District of Columbia
- FL Florida
- GA Georgia
- GU Guam
- HI Hawaii
- ID Idaho
- IL Illinois
- IN Indiana
- IA Iowa
- KS Kansas
- KY Kentucky
- LA Louisiana
- ME Maine
- MD Maryland
- MA Massachusetts
- MI Michigan
- MN Minnesota
- MS Mississippi
- MO Missouri
- MT Montana
- NE Nebraska
- NV Nevada
- NH New Hampshire
- NJ New Jersey
- NM New Mexico
- NY New York
- NC North Carolina
- ND North Dakota
- OH Ohio
- OK Oklahoma
- OR Oregon
- PA Pennsylvania
- PR Puerto Rico
- RI Rhode Island
- SC South Carolina
- SD South Dakota
- TN Tennessee
- TX Texas
- UT Utah
- VT Vermont
- VA Virginia
- VI Virgin Islands
- WA Washington
- WV West Virginia
- WI Wisconsin
- WY Wyoming


The Oldest Member