

"Mr. Wodehouse...has constructed an imaginary world whose very ludicrousness prevents us from recognizing that it is our own here and now." ...Julian Mitchell

The newsletter of The Wodehouse Society

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PLUM LINES

What! gift memberships? Add a Ho to that What. Two clear-cut precedents now exist for such benevolence: Nancie Burkett, whose letters have a nice lilt, gave a gift mbrshp to her friend, Janet Terry, for Christmas; and Anne Louise Genest presented a similar gift to her father, Pierre Genest. Gift-wrapped, of course.

One distinguished member, an astute and experienced observer of the goings-on of her fellow beings, told OM that, after an extensive and penetrating survey, she has concluded that most Plumies are content to sit at home and chuckle over Plum's stories. They, * have, she says, little or no interest in helping to form a permanent organization. Chapter presidents report poor attendance at meetings, confirming these findings. OM, always reluctant to chide, overcomes his reticence and utters two dynamic words (or are they only syllables?) which have, in ages past, caused tyrants to tremble and vast empires to crumble: "Tsk-tsk!"

QUESTION AND ANSWER DEPT. (or, I Thought You would Never Ask):

Q. #1: - In 1950 Plum was interviewed by Eleanor Roosevelt. The interview was recorded to be played on radio. Are any copies of that interview available? ...Phil Ayres.

A: While I remember Plum talking about meeting Mrs. Roosevelt for the first time at her apartment and being interviewed for a radio show, I have never heard of any one at the networks retaining copies of it. If it exists at all, it would be in the hands of some fan who recorded it directly from the radio. ...David Jasen.

Q. #2: - In his introduction to "Something New" (paperback edn) Plum says he located Blandings Castle in Shropshire because "...My happiest days as a boy were spent in Bridgnorth..." Does Mr. Jasen know where near Bridgnorth? ...Phil Ayres.

A: Most definitely Blandings Castle's locale is Bridgnorth. Ann E. Wood (TWS), in her marvellous essay in the James Heineman volume P. G. Wodehouse, 1881 - 1981 tells of her delightful adventures in tracking down the actual castle and its inhabitants, a must reading for all Wodehouseans. ...David Jasen.

"An author writes to be read, and in the last resort the only criterion as to the value of his work is found in the preservation or neglect of that work by future generations of readers." ...Henry Smith Williams. 1863-1945. Encouraging young people to read Plum's work is one of our primary objectives (Statement of Objectives). With this in mind, and in conjunction with its Wodehouse Exhibit there, the Delaware Valley Chapter of TWS gave ten Wodehouse books to the Joseph Krauskopf Library, Delaware Valley College, Doyletown, PA.

Do you believe that Bertram Wilberforce Wooster was a negligible force in intellectual circles, a simple nincompoop, a mere drone in our social beehive, untalented and without the finer accomplishments? So many thoughtless critics have derogated his native and acquired intelligence in the past that a different view is refreshing. An interesting tract has been written, and printed on his private press, by Mr. Bjarne Nielsen, Antikvariat Pinkerton, 68 Nansengade, 1366 Copenhagen K, Denmark. Mr. Nielsen is a bookseller specializin in mystery and detective fiction. He postulates that Bertie was, in fact, a talented and intellectual person, and draws on Bertie's own assertions to prove his point. A delightful bit of whimsy, and a very desirable item for any Wodehouse collector. Correspondence aimed at making this tract available to our members has been initiated, but you might like to write to Mr. Nielsen, too.

Statements for membership dues are sent with this mailing. Members in countries other than the United States are reminded that dues are payable in U.S. currency on a bank located in the United States. Your banker can arrange it. Rates of exchange and bank collection fees can reduce your remittance considerably, otherwise. Those cherished members who shall not have paid by 31 March will no longer receive PLUM LINES, an almost inconceivable deprivation. Further, they shall be stripped of membership and all privileges pertinent thereto! They will be hurriedly reinstated, of course, the instant their dues are paid.

* OOPS!

