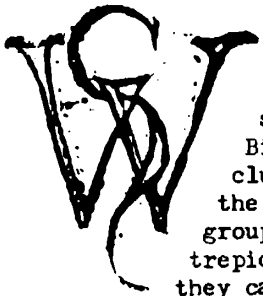


"If Plato has been called the Master of Those who Think, and Aristotle the Master of Those who Know, then how can Wodehouse fail to be called the Master of Those who Laugh?" .....  
.....Arthur D. Nock.

PLUM LINES - the newsletter of THE WODEHOUSE SOCIETY - Vol. III, No. 2, 15 March, 1982 WCY



FORE! The Annual P. G. Wodehouse Clubface Open Golf Classic Tournament has been held at Richmond, VA, for two consecutive years. Inspired by Plum's short story, "The Long Hole," two Univ. of Virginia students (now graduates) decided to duplicate the prodigious feat of R. Bingham and O. Jukes by teeing off at the third tee of a suburban country club and playing to a designated, specially prepared hole on the lawn of the university, four miles distant. A review of the story, in the Mulliner group, will refresh your mind on the difficulty of such a match. These intrepid souls now consider moving the tournament to the New York City area, so they can play it over the original course. Unfortunately, these stalwarts are not Plumies, but we hope to convert them. #####

OM ERRED (you don't have to say it so LOUD, do you?). In the January PLUM LINES, you were told that the London opening of the Wodehouse Exhibit (moved from The Pierpont Morgan Library) will be May 18th. WRONG. March 18th is the correct date, at the National Theatre (South Bank), the hour of the opening being 12:30 p.m. #####

We lay claim to an affiliated society of Wodehouse admirers in Denmark, THE COPENHAGEN DRONES. When invited to join TWS, their spokesman (Bjarne Nielsen) declined, saying that, as they started their association in 1978, and we in 1980, they are the oldest and we should join them. Bjarne sent dues for one membership, however, to provide them with our newsletter and membership lists. We list them in THE TOME as Associate Members. On your next trip to Denmark look them up. Their "Suggested Statutes" follows:

"There shall be one or two annual meetings according to the members' needs, thirst, and economy. 2. All meetings shall be held at Simpson's in The Strand unless exemption is granted. 3. Exemption is always granted. 4. The object of the society is to diffuse the knowledge of Wodehouse thereby advancing world peace, socialism, and general nonsense. 5. Members are under obligation to quote their "favorites" at every meeting and to carry out the scholarly research appointed by the secretary. 6. At every meeting there shall be a reasonable amount of breadrolls and lumps of sugar at the disposal of the members." #####

THE WIVES OF FAMOUS MEN seldom share the praise given their husbands. Lady Wodehouse has been mentioned only rarely in the articles and books written about Plum. Yet she shared his ~~his~~ life completely, hoisting many of his responsibilities onto her own shoulders to free him for his literary work, even serving as a model for some of his heroines (OM is convinced of this). She shared his brilliant literary successes, the anxious waiting to learn of the success or failure of a new stage production, the dismal uncertainties of internment in World War II. One Plummy, Phil Ayres, wrote this to OM:

"I am amazed how such deep love and trust between Lady Wodehouse and Plum could have lasted over such a long time.....If he had never written a book or lyric, the Wodehouses would deserve our respect and admiration for their example of a working marriage. No couple united at the end of a Wodehouse novel could have done better at the marriage game than they." #####

All members are reminded that, at no additional cost, spouses and/or spouseses resident at the same address, may be full-fledged Society members. This philanthropic opportunity extends to literate offspring who may have developed a fondness for Plum. #####

The Q/A DEPT is inoperative in this issue. Reason: on returning from a visitation to Florida a few days ago, OM found that there was not enough time left to (a) extract Qs from letters, (b) send them to young D. Jasen, and (c) expect to receive As in time for this issue. So they are being kept in cold storage for the May issue. Patience. Now OM is not even a minor authority on the life and work of Plum, only an enjoyer, so your Qs can't simply be answered instanter by our editorial staff. #####

Space (not to mention editorial time, other interesting things to do, and...let's

Face the facts...sheer laziness, doesn't permit us to publish lists of books for swapping by our members, as some have suggested. HOWEVER, we will give the names of those who want to trade stuff, so that others may contact them. The first Hopeful Swapper is Mrs. Anita Avery, TWS. She will send lists. Any body else? #####

Jimmy Heineman tells us that the paperback copies of his P.G. Wodehouse: A Centenary Celebration, 1881-1981, the catalog of The Pierpont Morgan Library Wodehouse Exhibit, are sold out and will not be republished. While the pprbk copy is now a collector's item, the hardbound copies are still available from the Morgan Library, and...if you missed getting the paper-bound copy...your Wodehouse collection will suffer if you don't obtain a copy. Mortgage your home if you have to, put less peanut butter in the kiddies' sandwiches, but don't go without Jimmy's magnificent book. #####

The First International Convention of The Wodehouse Society is starting to take on the garments of reality. A Convention Information Packet is in process of preparation, and will be sent to members who express an interest in coming. Besides the Convention itself, Doylestown, in the heart of Bucks County, has much to offer with its "Mercer Mile," an unusual trio of one-of-a-kind buildings, excellent sight-seeing and shopping opportunities, and fine restaurants. Our packet will provide information on motels, rental cars, transportation, and so on. Please ask for it if you are coming, or think that you might come. #####

You were asked to name your favorite PGW story. Sharon Esau liked "Uncle Fred in the Springtime," among the short stories, and "Leave it to Psmith" in the novel category. Marie Charlotte Hard's favorite: "How difficult to choose just one!" The Freddy Threepwood' stories appeal to her immensely because Freddie arouses her sympathy. "The Blandings stories make you feel happy and peaceful." Lynda Porter selects "Leave it to Psmith," giving us no particular reason. But you don't have to justify your liking for a particular story of Plum's; the fact that they are Plum's stories is justification enow. #####

THUMBNAIL BIOGRAPHY: "Had you carried out your full-scale investigation," wrote Dr. Berners Jackson, Department of English at McMaster University, in Hamilton, Ontario, "you would have discovered that, at 65, I have acquired all the human vices, and abandoned some of them; that I am a professor of sorts, and of Shakespeare (a writer whom you will recognize as having spent much of his life preparing apt quotations for P. G. Wodehouse); that, come June (ed. note: last June, that is) I shall have the consolation title "emeritus"; that I am addicted to golf, and that I wrote poetry in my youth. (Otherwise, I am as innocent as the snow, driven or undriven, but which happens to be falling in unnecessary quantities outside my window just now (ed. note: since this was submitted about a year ago, "just now" should read "just then."), inspiring this happy simile." Note: Four members of the faculty at McMaster, and one graduate student there, are Plummes, and plan to start a chapter. #####

OM deplors the use of "fans" to describe members of The Wodehouse Society. Fans, as we call devotees and followers of some popular movie star, rock-and-roll group, or sports figure, is (according to one popular dictionary) short for fanatic, and "fan clubs" are generally commercially arranged and short-lived; such "fans" will disperse as the popularity of their idols wane, or a more exciting idol surfaces. Our Society is more than a transitory "fan club." It is a literary association whose members appreciate Plum for the fine stories, lyric poetry, and plays which he has given us, admire him for his long career as a humorist, and love him as a fine human being. Now, how about something better than "fans".....

Errors noted in PLUM LINES are intentional to allow bibliographers to determine "points," which increase the value of collector's items in years to come. OM



The Oldest Member