



"There is, and can be, only one P. G. Wodehouse: a name that takes its place high in the English Comic tradition. And it's a name that will remain there as the years pile up, long after most of the swells with the messages have been forgotten." ...William Trevor

THIS ISSUE MARKS THE THIRD ANNIVERSARY OF THE WODEHOUSE SOCIETY! On 10 March 1980, a letter-to-the-editor of AB - BOOKMAN'S WEEKLY carried this plea: "I wonder if any AB readers would be interested in forming a society to perpetuate the memory of the late P. G. Wodehouse...."

From that letter, five replies (and recently a sixth) were received. After that, with no paid advertising, growth has been "by word of mouth," that is, by members mentioning the society to other Plum enthusiasts. While advertising would undoubtedly increase our membership, we presently lack the administrative capability necessary for rapid expansion. For the nonce, gradual growth seems indicated. Of course, if some competent soul or souls with more advanced administrative skills and equipment were to volunteer to carry on at a higher level of efficiency, Mr and Mrs OM would be happy to pass the baton, for added growth is highly desirable.

OUR ROVING CORRESPONDENT, Jimmy Heineman, TWS, spent a pleasant afternoon with the P. G. Wodehouse Society while in Amsterdam recently. He reports a jolly assembly of Plum's admirers there, grown from 51 members in December to 70. We wish them well. They haven't consented to be associate members of TWS, but we have hopes...

AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION: PLEASE NOTE - During the recent record-breaking snowstorm in Maryland, students at Goucher College helped in the kitchen, replacing workers unable to report for duty. Ann Byerly, TWS, a Goucher senior, reports: "What I did every night after getting off work and doing some homework was to read one story in JEEVES, and it helped. Has the AMA heard of Wodehouse?"

ABCDARY - DOUG STOW, President of the San Francisco Chapter, TWS, is still seeking appropriate quatrains..rhymes..jingles for each letter of the alphabet for an ABCdary of Plum's characters and/or places...for example:

E is for Empress/Of Blandings. They stare/At her avoirdiposeness/At Shropshire's great fair. That sort of thing. To repeat our prior mention of Doug's project, he is assembling this ABCdary, and when he prints it on Margaret's press, he will send a free copy to each TWS member whose verses were selected. Surely there are some among you....

Those who can tune in on CBC (Canadian Broadcasting Corporation) radio's "BOOKTIME," (10:25 at Montreal, 940 kc on AM - 10:25 pm that is) may hear readings of Plum's stories, according to information supplied by Anthony Arnold, TWS. The program is scheduled Monday through Friday, and is a network selection heard in all parts of Canada. Good idea to check your local radio listings.

THE IDEA OF HAVING A SOCIETY JOURNAL seems to have encountered a temporary set-back (i.e., fizzled for the nonce), the consensus of our Feasibility Committee being summed up thusly: Plum, the committee opined, "Deserves spurts of exuberant spontaneity, not quarterly deadlines and stodgy pseudo-scholarship." One is constrained to agree, OM supposes; though he had assumed that a stalwart editorial board could encourage the exub. spont., and discourage the stgy ps. schshp. In the meantime, beefing-up PLUM LINES with an occasional supplementary essay seems a logical alternative to, though not really a substitute for, a Society Journal. If you can contribute something along the desired lines, send it to OM. Short, snappy commentary of interest to Plummies (readers, collectors, admirers) will be welcomed, but...remember...no stgy pseudo-schshp. Top quality scholarship is, of course, in order.

Lady Ethel tells us that Edward Duke's one-man show, "Jeeves Takes Charge," will open on Broadway early in April. In 1981, after a long run in London, the show toured Canada and Australia. An abridged show was performed at the Pierpont Morgan Library, New York City, for their Wodehouse Centenary Celebration October 15th, 1981. In her letter, Lady Ethel also wrote, "Please give my best wishes to all the members of 'The Wodehouse Society.'"

Q/A Department: WE HAVE A QUESTION BUT NO ANSWER. Dr. Bob Hall, TWS, being a railway buff in addition to his other duties and interests, sends out a request for Pelham Grenville von Donop, Plum's godfather (back when that word was associated only with christenings). Bob knows that P.G.vD. was a safety inspector for whatever rail systems the Crown Colony of Hong Kong controlled, but he would like to know more. If any of you have more information, Bob would like to hear from you. And tell OM, too, for it might make an interesting item for PL, interesting items being in short supply.

FOLIO BOOKS, LTD, has issued P. G. Wodehouse: Short Stories. Folio Books, Ltd., is an English book club similar in quality and scope to the Limited Editions Club and Heritage Club, publishing well-selected titles vastly superior in format, typography, and binding to the average hardback. In line with LEC and HC, you must sign up for a one-year membership, during which you will receive four books of your selection... OM, an admirer of (1) Plum and (2) books which lead you to suppose that the publisher took pride in his work, has signed up in order to procure PGW:SS. So far as he can ascertain, it is available in no other way. U.S. and Canadian members may query Folio Books, Ltd., c/o Expeditors of the Printed Word, Ltd., 527 Madison Avenue, Suite 1217, New York, NY 10022. Their English address is not immediately available to OM, but publishers' lists in your local library should supply the information.

THE GREAT LOGO/INSIGNE/SYMBOL CONTEST is still in progress. The Society needs an identifying logo: a simple, straight-forward symbol to identify our association on stationery, publications, etc. The winner will receive a copy of David A. Jasen's Bibliography and Readers' Guide to the First Editions of P. G. Wodehouse, a book which is hard to find these days, and deserves reprinting. Of course, our art committee, Archibald Gilpin, Lucius Pim, Brancepeth Mulliner, and Joss Weatherby, is exacting, and is prepared to select only that entry which is outstandingly apropos. Avoid complex designs, stylized lettering, armorial bearing, grand seals, as you would avoid other plagues. Simplicity is the keyword.

The Oldest Member

* Request for...should read Request for information about...
P.S. This saves having to retype the page...OM