



"...Those who are suffering from mental fatigue and depression should certainly meet Mr. Mulliner..."Spectator, 1927

NOTE that the plinth of our logo is, for the moment, blank. Suggestions for an inscription have been (a) Lyricist, Humorist; (b) Sui Generis (one of a kind, or in a class by himself); and (c) Inimitable. On the other hand, since the name P. G. Wodehouse tells it all, do we need anything on the plinth? "All else is commentary," as somebody once observed.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT:

First let me thank all of you for having elected me your president. I shall of course do my best to help the Society in its aim of fostering the reading of Wodehouse's works and the understanding of his significance, especially important in these basically humorless and unfunny times.

I should like to ask all of you to be thinking a little about what the Society means to you and what it can do to aid you with regard to your reading and understanding of Wodehouse. With a later issue of PLUM LINES, I hope to be sending you a short questionnaire on this topic, which I should greatly appreciate your filling out and returning to me, so that the Society can serve you as well as possible.

If all goes according to present plans, I shall try to arrange for the next bi-ennial meeting of The Wodehouse Society to be held on October 12th, 1985 (the Saturday nearest October 15th, the Master's 104th birthday) at Cornell University, in Ithaca, New York. The region around Ithaca is beautiful at all times of the year, but especially attractive in October, when the fall coloring of the leaves is normally at its brightest.

With all best wishes for a Happy New Year, and a 1984 which will be absolutely non-Orwellian ^{and} absolutely Wodehousean in its cheerfulness and enjoyability.

.....Bob Hall (Dr. Robert A. Hall, Jr.)

Gremlins in the Word Processor have caused the misspelling of the names of two highly regarded Plummiess, Martha Fowler and Edward Cazalet. The inference that Gremlins and OM are synonymous is deeply resented.

All U. S. Plummiess are urged to send a card or letter to Ms. Ann Mills, Philatelic Programs Analyst, Stamps Division, U.S. Postal Service, 475 L'Enfant Plaza, S.W., Washington, D.C. Ask that a commemorative stamp be issued to honor P. G. Wodehouse, stressing his U.S. citizenship, his part in modernizing American musical comedy, and his status as an author widely read and published on both sides of the Atlantic. Pester Ms. Mills....

Lt. Col. N.T.P. Murphy tells OM that errors were perpetrated in his "Outline Guide to Wodehouse's England," supplement to the Sept. PL. E.g., after "Continue up Dover Street," we should read: "Turn right at the top, turn left, then first right into Clifford Street. At No. 18, pause again." Then as we stroll beyond Alleyn Arms, the railway embankment is on our RIGHT, not on our LEFT. Our editorial staff shall be sharply reprimanded for getting all those nice people hopelessly lost....

AND, while we are trying to square things with Norman, he has a daughter, presently an undergraduate at Edinburgh University who would like to become an exchange Student in the United States. Any Plummiess having knowledge of the procedures involved should write to Lt. Col. N.T.P. Murphy as soon as possible.

A midwest business research institute which analyzes these things reports that the average business letter costs \$7.60 to produce and mail. OM, therefore,

has taken a drastic step to conserve TWS funds: hereafter, all Society correspondence shall be classified as Social Corresp. rather than as Business Corresp., thereby saving untold expense. Our Annual Statement will be issued with the March PLUM LINES. In reference to the Dues Statements sent with this mailing, you are reminded that if you failed to pay dues for 1983 (and some of you did fail, unfortunately) and fail to pay them by March, 1984, you will be dropped from the rolls of the Society, a Fate worse than Death. We like you, and would hate to deprive you of the privilege of Plummyship.

We were able to publish our supplement this month with the permission of The Folio Society, in whose magazine it first appeared, and of its author, our very own Barry Phelps, TWS. Those interested in learning more about The Folio Society may address them at 202 Great Suffolk Street, London SE1 1PR, United Kingdom; or at Folio Books, Ltd., c/o Expeditors of the Printed Word, 527 Madison Ave., Suite 1217, New York, NY 10022.

U.K. MAGAZINE:

For those British expatriates in the US and Canada who want to keep in touch with their Homeland, and for others who have an interest in Britain, there is a fine publication issued here in Bucks County with YOU in mind. OM recommends it. In fact, although he missed being an expatriate by about a dozen or so generations, he is subscribing to UKM. Subscriptions are \$10.00 (US) a year. Write to Mary Griffiths, Editor, U.K. Magazine, P.O. Box 25, Hatboro, PA 19040.

An excellent short (10 pp) biography of Plum and his work may be found in Critical Survey of Long Fiction, English Language Series, Frank N. Magill, Ed., Salem Press, Englewood Cliffs, NJ, 1983. Your library may have this 8-volume reference set. It is arranged alphabetically by author.

OM

The Oldest Member