PLUM LINES -	the newsletter	of The Wodehouse
Society		II, No. 4
15	September 1981	WCY

"I am all for incest and tortured souls in moderation, but a good laugh from time to time never hurt anybody." PGW - Author! Author!

You are very perceptive: no newsletter was issued in August. OM wants December for the enjoyment of The Holiday Season with its time-consuming shopping sprees, exchanges of greetings, and celebrations by family and church. Thus this September issue, with November as its successor.

The title of our newsletter (you noticed!) was suggested by Doris Frohnsdorff, TWS. Don Abbott also suggested it, but Doris said it first by a week and won a copy of Jeeves and the Tie that Binds. 'Tis computerish to err, and she was sent the wrong book; amends were quickly made, of course. Walter White and Doug Stow sent entries, for which profuse thanks are awarded......Four entrants per contest seems to be our maximum response for contests so far: only four (4) entrants for our logotype contest (the Great Insigne/Symbol/Device contest..remember?). Our Art Committee believes that the importance of developing the absolutely right design for TWS justifies suspending the selection date indefinitely. They thank those who have submitted designs, and hope that they, and many others, will give the matter much thought and effort. Suspended means postponed, NOT cancelled.

Residents of Guildford, England, are placing a plaque on the house in which Plum was born. This is being financed by individual donations of not more than one pound per donor. We Plummies can't be left out of this! Donations should be sent to: The Wodehouse Centenary, c/o The Editor, Surrey Advertiser, Guildford, Surrey, UK.

We recently asked for brief autobiographies of our members, to be shared with all of you as space allows. One member has told all! If you check with your local librarian or bookseller you can no doubt find In Memory Yet Green and In Joy Still Felt, Volumes One and Two, respectively, of Isaac Asimov's autobiography. Even better than Franklin's or Cellini's, it is well worth your effort, and will certainly increase your level of acquaintance with one Plummy. OM can hardly wait for Volume Three....

A fast run-down on Wodehouse Exhibits this fall and winter: Pierpont Morgan Library, New York City, 15 October - 15 January, open to the public 16 October; Toronto Public Library, 2 November thru 30 November; Mechanics/Mercantile Library, San Francisco, 1 September thru 30 October; Parkside Branch, San Francisco Public Library, thru October; Songwriters' Hall of Fame, 1 Times Square, New York City, 15 October - indefinite date; Trenton State College, Trenton, NJ, thru October; Delaware Valley College and Melinda Cox Library, Doylestown, PA., dates pending. Southampton College, Southampton, NY, held an exhibit musical program in August, and the East End Arts and Humanities Council held a party at Remsenburg in honor of Plum early in August. If there are other exhibits and/or celebrations for the Wodehouse Centenary, not mentioned here, PLEASE tell the OM.

Incidentally, OM = Oldest Member is not an alias for any particular person (Bill Blood, for example); it is a designation for whoever happens to be issuing this newsletter. When editorship for PLUM LINES changes hands, the editorial designation goes with it.

Our Advisory Committee reviewed our proposed Organization Plan. Four of these ten stalwart members openly, almost enthusiastically, approved; one vehemently disapproved; fine tacitly approved by their silence. Silence gives consent, as the late Oliver Goldsmith has advised. Therefore, the way OM reads the results of the A/C review, nine yeas and one may. The yeas have it. The plan is presented on p. 4 of the Membership List. Its effectiveness depends on the success of its smallest element: the CHAPTER (two or more members equal one chapter).

Question and Answer Column: -

- Q. Are the Guy Bolton articles in Homage to Wodehouse and the Reader's Digest, UK Edn., Feb '70, the same, without deletion? Pauline Blanc.
- A. Bolton's article for the <u>Homage</u> is quite different (only one anecdote the same) from that in the UK Reader's Digest. He wrote another article for the NY Times (Feb 15, 1976) which not only mentions Plum, but gives a tremendous background on their lives on Long Island; given, I believe, nowhere else. David Jasen.
- Q. Two of Plum's biographers tell us that Plum was named Pelham Grenville for his godfather, Colonel P. C. von Donop. Was von Donop the same person who was an inspector for Her Majesty's Board of Trade who reported on railway accidents and safety hazards? Robert A. Hall, Jr.
- A. I presume that, as the colonel was rather a big wheel in the British colony in Hong Kong during the '80's, and it was unlikely that there was another P. G. von Donop in England or its possessions at the time, that this would be the same man. David Jasen.

WODEHOUSE AT WAR is being published October 15th in London by Milner and Co., Clement House, 99 Aldwich, London WC2B 4JY, UK. Price: 8.95 Pounds plus shipping (5.68 pds airmail, 1.34 pds surface mail). Written by Iain Sproat, M.P., it examines the MI5 intelligence report which cleared Plum, but which was withheld from the public until this year. We afichados have held Plum guiltless from the onset of the attacks against him, yet this book must be on our shelves because it puts it all in one volume instead of the bits and pieces hitherto available.

Wodehouse the Fictionist is a bona fide collector's item, beyond doubt. Dr. Maha Nand Sharma, one of our latest members, wrote this as his doctoral thesis, earning also Plum's accolade: "The research it must have involved stuns me! ... I am delighted to know that it has been instrumental in getting you your doctorate. You certainly deserve it." OM found its fresh viewpoints stimulating and was impressed by its analysis of Plum's writing from both the Western and Indian aspects of literary classicism. Barry Phelp: has it.

IONICUS (the professional pseudonym of Jos. C. Armitage, TWS, the artist who does the covers of the Wodehouse books in the Penguin series and who is a Punch regular) has created a set of three prints in watercolor showing aspects of the Drones Club and its unpredictable members. Limited to 75 signed sets, the litho plates being destroyed after the first run, these prints will be hard to find in a short while. Our London bookseller, Barry Phelps, TWS, offers them @ 120 Pounds (sorry, this typewriter has no symbol for pounds). Write or call Barry for info.

NOTE: These are not "ads." They are included in our newsletter because OM thinks that you should know about them.

Things are looking up! About 65% of our members have paid their 1981 dues!!!!

The Oldest Member