"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 Vol. III, No. 1...15 January 1982 WCY

Lung 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 gft 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 Plummies are content to sit at home and chuckle over Plum's stories in these \* . 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 locamed 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 \* 00PS! dues are paid.

Our U.S. members will be pleased to learn that dues and contributions paid to The Wodehouse Society are deductible when preparing federal income tax returns, IRS (Internal Revenue Service) having granted tax-exempt status to The Wodehouse Society. Unfortunately, this does not benefit our members in other countries, other than establishing a precedent in applying for similar exemptions.

Ed Lehwald, TWS, our Baltimore bookseller, asks to hear from those who would like to have him stock Plum's books which are currently <u>in print</u>. His address, of course, is in our membership list.

It happens, despite our use of the most sophisticated administrative techniques (4"x6" file cards, rubber bands, glue, paper clips, and batteries of computers - the batteries, unfortunately, don't do much for us without the computers - ) that we lose track of a member who has moved (or been evicted) and has failed to send us the new address. If you are reading this, you haven't moved; or, if you have, you've sent your change of address. If you are <u>not</u> reading this, you have moved without telling us, and we hope that you aren't lost.

If we can stir up a hospitality committee in our local chapter, plans will surface for a Society Convention in Doylestown, PA, this summer. More info later.

If you were asked to name your favorite Wodehouse story, which would it be? Richard Usborne, TWS, has chosen Joy in the Morning because "...It is one of his happiest, best constructed, and most jewel-encrusted..." (Wodehouse at Work). OM, for undefinable reasons, has long favored <u>Uncle Fred in the Springtime.</u> Yet he would hate to be held to a single choice. How about you?

An abbreviated financial statement of The Wodehouse Society fund, as of 31 December, 1981, follows:

Receipts (1980 and 1981): Dues received: Contributions received: Total:	\$669.24 328.60 \$997.84	(Foreign exchange rates and bank collection fees account for fractional
Expenditures (1981):		amounts)
Postage:	\$179.54	
Copying:	190.58	(Copying is done com-
Office supplies (stationery, tpwrtr		mercially by Minuteman Press)
ribbons, files, etc.):	28.48	
Bank charge:	_ 3.00	(Bank chg developed
Total:	\$401.60	before we were accepted as a
Amount in treasury on		non-profit orgzn.)
31 Dec. 1981:	\$596.24	

Our ledger and bank statements are, of course, open for inspection by members who stop in at Fine Fettle for a cup of coffee or tea. As we accumulate a larger fund, we may look forward to the possibility of a quarterly (or at least semi-annual) society journal having considerably more professionalism than PL. Our members can provide the contributions and our several professors in English departments of universities can surely provide editorship. It is inevitable. In the meanwhile, PLUM LINES must suffice.

	om		
The	Oldest	Member	
			S. S

Flash! The Pierpont Morgan Library Wodehouse Exhibit, which closed January 10th, will open on May 18th at the National Theatre in London, England.